

STUDIES ON THE CRUSTACEAN FAUNA OF MYSORE  
COAST 1. DECAPODA : BRACHYURA

By

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I—INTRODUCTION

The crabs dealt with in the present paper were collected during a recent faunistic survey of the Mysore coast under the leadership of the senior author. Altogether twenty two species are identified and included. The crustacean fauna of the coastal belt from north of Mangalore to south of Karwar has not been properly surveyed and one of the main purposes of the recent faunistic survey was to uncover the different crustacean species that are met with along this coast. The brachyuran crabs are dealt with in the present communication. Other groups will follow in subsequent papers.

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II—ECOLOGICAL NOTES

The area surveyed included the south and north Kanara districts of the Mysore state. The entire coastal tract from Mangalore (74° 50' E, 12°52' N) to Karwar (74°05' E, 14°50' N) was covered during the survey. Sandy expanses are met with only in the southern coastal parts while the northern coastal stretch is mountainous and rocky. In many places lofty extensions of the Western Ghats almost merge with the sea. Coast line is zig-zag, sandy enclosures being met with between hilly projections into the sea. However, many of the rocky areas are devoid of any vegetation. They are granite masses constantly washed by the sea, with least amount of hiding places. The result is that the shore fauna in these areas is rather poor.

Crabs described in this paper were all collected either from sandy tracts or from among crevices among the granite rocks.

III—SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family DORIPPIDAE

1. *Dorippe facchino* Herbst

1783. *Dorippe facchino* Herbst, *Krabben*, 1 (2) : 190.

*Material*—2♂, 1♀., Mangalore beach, 24. xii. '66.

*Distribution*.—East coast from the mouth of Hooghly to Madras, also widely reported from many parts of the world.

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## Family LEUCOSIDAE

2. *Philyra scabriscula* (Fabr.)

1798. *Leucosia scabriscula* Fabricius, *Ent. Syst. Suppl* : 349.

*Material*.—50 ♂, 126 ♀, Karwar ; 2 ♂, 5 ♀, Kumta, 16.i.67 and 10.i.67 respectively.

*Distribution*.—Madras, Travancore, Karachi, Tavoy, Mekran coast, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Zanzibar, Mergui archipelago, Nicobar and Indonesia.

## Family CALAPPIDAE

3. *Matuta lunaris* (Forskål)

1775. *Matuta victor* Forskål, *Deser. Anim.*, No. 44, : 91.

*Material*.—2 ♂, 2 ♀, Kumta ; 2 ♂, 5 ♀, Karwar ; 5 ♂, 3 ♀, Bhatkal ; 4 ♂, 6 ♀, Mangalore 11.i.67, 16.i.67, 4.i.67 and 18.xii.66 respectively.

*Distribution*.—Indian coasts, Andamans, Red Sea, Zanzibar, Madagascar. Also from Ganges delta, Arakan, Madras, Ceylon, Malabar coast, Karachi, Penang, Tavoy from the Indo-Pacific.

4. *Matuta banksii* Alcock

1896. *Matuta banksii* Alcock, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, 67 (2) : 158.

*Material*.—4 ♀, Mangalore, 17.xii.66.

*Distribution*.—Andaman-Nicobars, Mergui, Sundarbans & Gange-tic delta, Madras, Mahanadí delta, Bombay, Karachi, Durban Bay, Mozambique, Mauritius.

## Family MAIIDAE

5. *Doclea gracilipes* Stimp

1857. *Doclea gracilipes* Stimp, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* : 216.

*Material*.—1 ♂, 6 ♀, Malpe beach, Udipi on 26.xii.66.

*Distribution*.—Sandheads, R. Hooghly, Andamans, Hong Kong, Nergui Is., and localities in the Indo-Pacific.

## Family PORTUNIDAE

6. *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus)

1766. *Cancer pelagicus* Linn., *Mus. Lud. Ulr.* : 434.

*Material*.—1 ♂, 1 ♀, Karwar ; 2 ♀, Sirur ; 2 ♂, 2 ♀, Coondapore ; 3 ♀, Malpe, Udipi 16.i.67, 4.i.67, 29.xii.66 and 26.xii.66.

*Distribution*.—This is a widely distributed species having been recorded from Indian coasts, east Africa, Japan, Philippines, Australia, Tahiti, Mediterranean.

### 7. *Portunus sanguinolentus* (Herbst)

1796. *Cancer sanguinolentus* Herbst, *Krabben* 1 (2) : 161.

*Material*.—9 ♂, 3 ♀, Coondapore ; 10 ♂, 4 ♀, Mangalore beach on 29.xii.66 and 24.xii.66 respectively.

*Distribution*.—Very common in Indian coasts, Andaman-Nicobar Is., East coast of S. Africa, Australia and Hawaii Is. Holthuis (1956)\* says that this Indo-Pacific species has migrated to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

### 8. *Scylla serrata* (Forskål)

1775. *Cancer serratus* Forskål, *Descr. Anim.* : 90.

*Material*.—1 ♀, Mangalore ; 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Kumta beach on 18.xii.66 and 13.i.67 respectively.

*Distribution*.—The whole of Indo-Pacific region including east Africa, Red Sea, Japan, Tahiti, New Zealand and Australia, Philippines, Viet-Nam.

### 9. *Charybdis riverandersoni* Alcock

1899. *Charybdis riverandersoni* Alcock, *J. Asiat. Soc. Beng.*, 68 (2) : 53.

*Material*.—1 ♂, Kumta ; 3 ♂, 7 ♀, Karwar on 10.i.67 and 16.i.67 respectively.

Known distribution includes Indian coasts and Japan.

### 10. *Charybdis affinis* Dana

1852. *Charybdis affinis* Dana, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* : 85.

*Material*.—2 ♂, Suratkal (Mangalore) on 22.xii.66.

*Distribution*.—It has been recorded from Mergui, Akyab, Orissa coast and from coasts of Burma and Andaman group of Is.

## Family XANTHIDAE

### 11. *Menippe rumphii* (Fabr.)

1798. *Cancer rumphii* Fabr., *Ent. Syst. Suppl.* : 336.

*Material*.—1 ♀, Sirur ; 5 ♂, 7 ♀, Dharieswar ; 1 ♀, Karwar on 4.i.67, 10.i.67 and 16.i.67 respectively.

*Distribution*.—Indian coasts, Penang, Tavoy, Mergui Is., Persian Gulf, Ceylon, Laccadives, Karachi.

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\* *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 12 : 107-119.

12. *Eriphia leavimanus* Guerin

1844. *Eriphia leavimanus* Guerin, *Icon. R. A. Crust.* (pl. 3, fig. 1).

*Material*.—1 ♂, from Murudeswar (Bhatkal) on 6.i.67.

*Distribution*.—Aracan coast, Laccadives, Mergui, Indian coasts, Ceylon, Andaman, East Africa and Australia.

13. *Pilumnopus indica* (de Man)

1887. *Heteropanope indica* de Man, *J. Linn. Soc.*, 22 : 53.

*Material*.—4 ♂, 4 ♀, Murudeswar on 6.i.67.

*Distribution*.—Mergui Is., Japan, Karachi, Bombay.

14. *Ozius tuberculosus* M. Edwards

1834. *Ozius tuberculosus* M. Edw. *Historia nat. Crust.* Roma, 1 : 405.

*Material*.—1 ♀, Bhatkal beach on 4.i.67.

*Distribution*.—Mergui Is., Nicobar, New Caledonia, Mauritius, and now the Mysore coast.

*Remarks*.—Alcock (*loc. cit.*) (1898) obtained two specimens which are present in the Zoological Survey of India from the Nicobar Is. and Mergui Is. The present record seems to be the first from the Indian coast.

There is considerable difference in the size of the three specimens we examined, and this is presented below:

| Locality | Length  | Breadth          |
|----------|---------|------------------|
| Nicobar  | 5.8 mm. | 7.9 mm. (female) |
| Mergui   | 3.9 mm. | 5.7 mm. (female) |
| Bhatkal  | 2.7 mm. | 3.9 mm. (female) |

Brief description of the present specimen is as follows:

Carapace studded with small pearly granules. Front cut into four equidistant teeth. Anterolateral border, exclusive of orbital angle, cut into five teeth. Branchial region of the carapace crossed transversely by two furrows, which have a common starting point at the fourth tooth. Dark brown to red colour in spirit; fingers and dactyli of legs dark brown.

15. *Ozius rugulosus* Stimpson

1858. *Ozius rugulosus* Stimpson, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* : 34.

*Material*.—1 ♂, Mangalore; 2 ♀, Dharieswar (Kumta) on 18.xii.66 and 10.i.67.

*Distribution*.—Wide distribution in tropical regions of the Indo-Pacific from Japan to India, Red Sea, East coast of Africa, Andamans and Arakan.

16. *Epixanthus frontalis* (Milne Edwards)1834. *Ozius frontalis* M. Edwards, *Historia. Nat. Crust.* 1 : 406.*Material.*—1 ♂, Sirur, 1 ♀, Murudeswar on 4.i.67 and 6.i.67.*Distribution.*—East and west coasts of India, Ceylon, Andaman Nicobars, Mauritius, Mergui, Akyab, Orissa coast and Makran coast.17. *Xantho (Leptodius) exaratus* (Milne-Edwards)1834. *Chlorodius exaratus* M. Edwards, *Historia Nat. Crust.* Roma or Varsoviae, 1 : 402.*Material.*—1 ♂, 1 ♀, Murudeswar ; 3 ♂, Dhareswar 6.i.67 and 10.i.67 respectively.*Distribution.*—East and west coasts of India, Persian Gulf, Ceylon, Red Sea, Seychelles Is., Polynesia, Australia, Hawaii, Penang, Akyab, Andamans, Bombay, Ceylon and Karachi.

## Family OCYPODIDAE

18. *Uca annulipes* (Laterielle & Edw.)1852. *Gelasimus annulipes* M. Edward, *Ann. Sci. Nat. Paris Zool.*, 18 (3) : 149.*Material.*—25 ♂, 1 ♀, from Malpe (Udipi), on 26.xii.66.*Distribution.*—Indian coasts, Red Sea, East Africa, Australia, West coast of America.19. *Ocypoda ceratophthalma* (Pallas)1772. *Cancer ceratophthalmus* Pallas, *Spel. Zool.*, 9 : 83.*Material.*—2 ♂, from Sirur (Bhatkal) beach, 4.i.67.*Distribution.*—This widely distributed Indo-Pacific species is recorded from several localities from Indian coasts.

## Family GRAPSIDAE

20. *Grapsus grapsus* (Linn.)1766. *Cancer grapsus* Linn., *Syst. Nat.* : 1048.*Material.*—1 ♂, 2 ♀, Kumta ; 6 ♂, 25 ♀, Coondapore ; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Suratkal ; 3 ♂, Hosabetu ; 4 ♂, 3 ♀, Penambur, 13.i.67, 30.xii.66, 22.xii.66, 21.xii.66 and 19.xii.66 respectively.*Distribution.*—Widely recorded from coasts of India and Ceylon.21. *Metapograpsus messor* (Forskål)1775. *Cancer messor* Forskål, *Descrive. Anim. in Itin Orient.* : 88.*Material.*—4 ♂, 4 ♀, Coondapore, on 30.xii.66.

*Distribution*.—Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific from Hawaii to Red Sea and east African coasts including India.

22. *Plagusia depressa* (Herbst) var. *squamosa* (Herbst)

1796. *Cancer depressus* Herbst, *Krabben & C. I* (ii) : 117.

*Material*.—2 ♀, Karwar beach on 16.i.67.

*Distribution*.—Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Indo-Pacific.

#### IV—SUMMARY

Twenty two species of crabs belonging to eight families and eighteen genera obtained from the Mysore coast during a recent faunistic survey of the area are listed with distributional accounts. *Ozius tuberculosus* M. Edwards is a new record from Indian coasts. This was formerly recorded from the oceanic islands of Mauritius and Nicobars in the western and eastern ends of the Indian Ocean.

#### V—REFERENCES

- ALCOCK, A. 1898. Materials for a carcinological fauna of India. No. 3. The *Brachyura Cyclometopa*. Pt. 1. The family Xanthidae. *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 67 (2) : 67-233.
- HOLTHUIS, L. B. 1956. Proposed addition to the "Official list of generic names in Zoology" of the names of twentyfive genera of Macrura Reptantia (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), including proposals for the use of the plenary powers (a) to validate the spelling "Cherax" as the valid original spelling for the generic name published as "Cherax" and "Cheraps" by Erichson in 1846 (b) to suppress the specific name "Goudotti" Guerin-Meneville, 1839 as published in the combination "Astacoides Goudatti" and (c) to validate the emendation to *Palinurus* of the generic name "Pallimurus" Weber, 1795. *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 12 (4) : 107-119.