ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *GELOINA BENGALENSIS* (LAMARCK) (GELOINIIDAE: EULAMELLIBRANCHIA) IN THE COLEROON ESTUARY

P. NATARAJAN

*Porto Novo Field Centre of C.M.F.R. Institute, Porto Novo.*

**ABSTRACT**

The occurrence of *Geloina bengalensis* (Lamarck) in Coleroon estuary, on the south-east coast of India, is reported, based on a few shells collected from the area.

Prashad (1932), while including *Cyrena bengalensis* Lamarck, *C. turgida* Lea, *C. sinuosa* Deshayes and *C. tallax* Deshayes as synonyms of *Geloina bengalensis*, points out that *G. bengalensis* is a highly variable species with wide-spread occurrence in the Indo-Pacific. According to his earlier report (Prashad 1921) the species is confined to Bengal in the Indian region. Preston (1911), however, reported the species from Ceylon.

![Geloina bengalensis shells from Coleroon estuary. Left: Left valve (outer view). Right: Left valve (inner view).](image-url)
During a regular survey of the Vellar-Coleroon estuarine complex (11° 20'N; 79°40'E), 4 left valves and 2 right valves of different individuals of *G. bengalensis* were collected from the intertidal region of the Coleroon estuary. A search in the area made subsequently for live or dead specimens was met.

*Description of the shell:* The shells (Fig. 1) are ovato-subcircular, inequilateral, strong and heavy, with concentric striations; umbones directed anteriorly; hinge area very thick; teeth well-developed.

The dimensions of three shells (all the others were in damaged condition) are:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height (mm)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length (mm)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width (mm)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
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