

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *Geloina bengalensis* (LAMARCK)  
(GELOINIIDAE: EULAMELLIBRANCHIA)  
IN THE COLEROON ESTUARY

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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.



FIG. 1. *Geloina bengalensis* shells from Coleroon estuary. Left: Left valve (outer view). Right: Left valve (inner view).

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:

	1	2	3
	(Right valve)	(Left valve)	(Left valve)
Height (mm)	101	100	98
Length (mm)	115	113	105
Width (mm)	45	42	36

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