

FOUR NEW RECORDS OF PROSOBRANCH GASTROPODS
FROM MANDAPAM

K. ASOKAKUMARAN UNNITHAN

Mandapam Regional Centre of C.M.F.R. Institute, Mandapam Camp.

ABSTRACT

Four prosobranch gastropods *Epitonium scalaris* (Linnaeus), *Capulus* Sp., *Bursa crumena* (Lamarck) and *Turris indica* Roding, recorded for the first time, from Mandapam area are described.

The identity and systematics of prosobranch gastropods of Mandapam area and Krusadai Island have been dealt with by Crichton (1940), Hornell (1951), Satyamurthy (1956) and Sundaram (1969). Four prosobranchs *Epitonium scalaris* (Linnaeus), *Capulus* Sp., *Bursa crumena* (Lamarck) and

Turris indica Roding, which have not been recorded by earlier workers from this area, have been collected and are reported here. One specimen of each of these species has been deposited in the Museum of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute at Mandapam Camp. (Reg. Nos. M.336, M.337, M.338 and M.339).

Epitonium scalaris (LINNAEUS)

Family: Epitonidae

Shell pyramidal, thin and light. Breadth of shell more than half of length. Shell surface smooth with thin, white transpiral crests. Aperture roughly oval with a moderately thick, white lip slightly reflected over. The highly convex whorls present are eight in number, touching each other superficially only by the crests. Umbilicus present. A small part of the upper edge of the inner lip touches one of the crests of the penultimate whorl (Fig. 1 A).

The shell was found on the sandy shore at Pamban on October 14, 1972 among the discardings of trawl catches from Gulf of Mannar. Only one specimen with soft parts could be collected. The species has been previously recorded from Madras Coast by Gravely (1941). The shells are known as "ladder shells".

Capulus Sp.

Family: Capulidae

Shell broadly conical, columella absent. Outer surface of the shell possesses slightly twisted, brownish radiating bands. Shell limpet like, aperture circular, operculum absent, beak like apex directed backwards (Fig. 1 B).

The shell was collected from the sandy shore at Pamban from among the discardings of trawl catches from Gulf of Mannar, on October 14, 1972. Only one shell without soft parts was obtained.

This is the first record of the genus *Capulus* in Indian seas. Two species of *Capulus*, *C. badius* Dunker and *C. dilatatus* (A. Adams) have been recorded from Japan by Hirase (1954) and in those two species the apex of the shell is much farther away from the centre of the shell compared to *Capulus* sp. reported here. In the allied genus *Calyptraea* belonging to the family Calyptraeidae, the apex is central (Hyman 1967).

Bursa crumena (LAMARCK)

Family: Bursidae

Shell spindle shaped and broad. Spire moderately elevated. Varices two in each whorl and disposed opposite to each other. Edges of varices fringed and possess short teeth-like projections and are sharp. Tubercles between the varices flattened and moderately strong. Outer margin of aperture finely tooth-

ed. Shell dorsoventrally compressed to some extent. Whorls slightly angulated. Surface of shell has angular spiral ridges. Columellar side of posterior canal does not have conspicuous folds (Fig. 1 C).

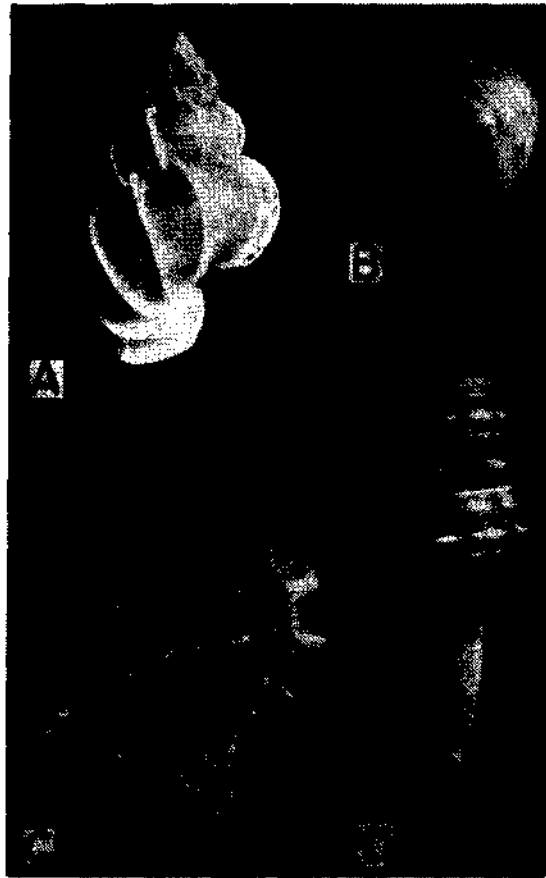


FIG. 1. A: *Epitonium scalaris* (Linnaeus). B: *Capulus* Sp. C: *Bursa crumena* (Lamarck). D: *Turris indica* Roding.

About ten shells with partly decayed soft parts were collected at Pamban from the discardings of trawl catches from Gulf of Mannar on October 14, 1972. This species has been recorded from Madras Coast by Gravely (1941). The shells are known as "purse shells" or "frog shells".

Turris indica RODING

Family: Turridae

Shell moderately slender, transpiral grooves entirely absent. Spiral ridge adjoining end of slit with strongly keeled upper margin which on spire forms

broadest part of each whorl; anterior canal long. Colour brown with white areas (Fig. 1 D). This species also was got in October, 1972 in trawl catches of Gulf of Mannar landed at Pamban.

Turris indica has been reported earlier from Madras coast by Gravely (1941).

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