

## *Plesionika reflexa* - a new record of deep-sea caridean shrimp from the south-west coast of India

\*G. Kuberan, Rekha Devi Chakraborty, P. Purushothaman and G. Maheswarudu

ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

\*e-mail: gkuber006@gmail.com

*Plesionika reflexa*, Chace, 1985 (Decapoda: Pandalidae) was recorded from the catch of deep sea shrimp trawlers operated at a depth of 200-300 m off Sakthikulangara (8° 56' 60.78"N / 76° 32' 34.27"E), Kollam south-west coast of India. The ovigerous female [Carapace length (CL): 15mm; Rostrum length (RL): 28mm] was reddish in colour with dark red ring formation in posterior abdomen. The telson was found damaged. The eggs were spherical in shape with pale green colour. Voucher specimen was deposited in the National Designated Repository, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi with Accession Number ED2.4.3.8.

The morphometric characters recorded were as follows: Rostrum extending beyond the antennal scale, dorsally armed with 6 teeth, including 3 on carapace posterior to level of orbital margin, armed ventrally with 35 teeth; abdomen with strong, recurved posteromesial tooth but without median dorsal carina on 3<sup>rd</sup> somite, 4<sup>th</sup> somite with pleuron rounded, 3<sup>rd</sup> maxilliped with epipod; pereopods with



Voucher specimen of *Plesionika reflexa*

well-developed epipods on anterior pairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> pair sub equal, 3<sup>rd</sup> pair extending beyond the antennal scale by a length of dactylus, none of pereopods are extremely slender or thread like. This species is closely related to *Plesionika ensis* (A.Milne-Edwards, 1881). In *Plesionika reflexa*, the posteromesial tooth on the third abdominal somite shows a tendency to recurve, whereas same has not been noticed in *P. ensis*.