

Rare occurrence of the Torpedo shrimp

K. A. Albert Idu, K. N. Saleela*, K. K. Suresh, V. A. Leslie and H. Jose Kingsly

Vizhinjam Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Vizhinjam P. O., Thiruvananthapuram-695 521, Kerala

*E-mail:saleela.ajay@gmail.com

Torpedo shrimps *Kishinouyepenaeopsis maxillipedo* (synonym of *Parapenaeopsis maxillipedo*) occur along the Indo-West Pacific, Sri Lanka, Malaya and Australia. In India, *K. maxillipedo* has been reported from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman Islands and recently from Kerala. On 8th July 2019 seven specimens of Torpedo shrimps were found in the gill net catch at Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram district, on the south west coast of Kerala. The gear was operated at 27 m depth, 5.6 km off Vizhinjam fishing Harbour and GPS point of the fishing site was recorded as 8^o19'37.2"N 76^o 59'48.6"E. All the specimens were identified as male with lengths

ranging from 66-80 mm. Gut content analysis revealed that 4 specimens had empty gut but others had food remains identified as *Acetes indicus*. In the coastal waters off Thiruvananthapuram, penaeid shrimp fishery is mostly contributed by the Indian white prawn, *Penaeus indicus*. A strikingly close resembling species *Kishinouyepenaeopsis cornuta* (Kishinouye, 1900), known as coral shrimp, has been observed in a few numbers over the years in outboard boat seines occasionally, among the shrimp landings at Vizhinjam, mostly during April. This is the first incidence of Torpedo shrimps caught in Thiruvananthapuram district.



Fig. 1. Torpedo shrimp, *Kishinouyepenaeopsis maxillipedo* landed in gill net operation off Vizhinjam, Kerala