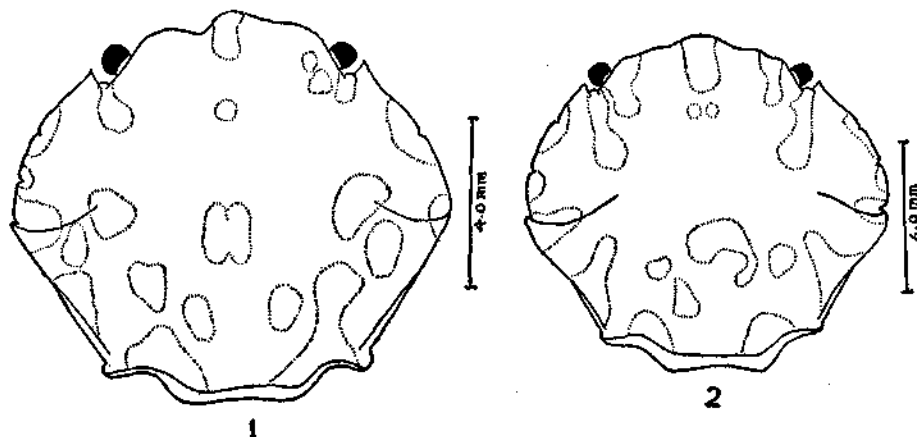


**ON SOME ABNORMALITIES IN *LISSOCARCINUS ORBICULARIS*
DANA (CRUSTACEA-PORTUNIDAE) FROM MINICOY**

Lissocarcinus orbicularis Dana, which has a very wide distribution from South Africa and Red Sea to Japan and Hawaii, has already been recorded from the Laccadive and Maldive Islands by Alcock (1899) and Borradaile (1903). Borradaile has also observed its commensalic mode of life when he collected specimens from the tentacles of *Holothuria nigra*. Edmondson (1954) recorded the species as a commensal on *Holothuria atra* also.

The specimens under discussion in this note were collected by one of us (P.T.T.) during his stay in the Island in the year 1961. The occurrence of such commensalism appears to be very rare at least in this Island, since of the hundred and more specimens of holothurian dissected, only two specimens of crabs were obtained. They were all found inside the basal enlarged part of respiratory tree of the holothurian.

The purpose of the present note is to bring out the abnormalities observed in the two female specimens with us, which we are inclined to believe to be only abnormalities rather than variations within the species. Of the two females, one is ovigerous measuring 9.5 mm. in length and 10.0 mm. in breadth and the other measuring 12.0 mm. in length and 14.0 mm. in breadth. Apart from the variations in the colour pattern of the carapace, they also exhibit some distinct abnormalities (Figs. 1 & 2) in the number and size of the antero-lateral lobes of cara-



pace. In typical examples, antero-lateral border of carapace is divided into five unequal lobes (last being small) by faint sutures or clefts. In the present specimens, the antero-lateral border is divided into 2 to 4 lobes. In the larger female the antero-lateral border of right side is distinctly divided by clefts into four lobes of which first is the broadest whereas on the left side second antero-lateral lobe is the broadest. In the smaller ovigerous female, antero-lateral border of right side is divided into two lobes of subequal size whereas that of left side is divided into four lobes of which first is the broadest.

*Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute,
Mandapam Camp.*

**C. SANKARANKUTTY
P. T. THOMAS**