

TWO NEW RECORDS OF SCYLLARID LOBSTERS FROM THE ARABIAN SEA

WHILE examining the deep water catches of some of the shrimp trawlers operating off Kerala on the south-west coast of India a few specimens of scyllarid lobsters were obtained. They were identified as belonging to two species which have not been reported earlier from the Arabian Sea. These new records are reported here.

Scyllarus batei batei Holthuis

Arctus orientalis Spence Bate, 1888, p. 68.

Arctus orientalis Estampador, 1937, p. 495.

Scyllarus batei Holthuis, 1946 (part), p. 94.

Scyllarus batei batei Holthuis, 1960, p. 149.

Not *Arctus orientalis* Alcock and Anderson, 1894, p. 165 ; Alcock, 1901, p. 181 ;
Lloyd, 1907, p. 6 and

Scyllarus orientalis De Man, 1916, p. 73 ; Ramadan, 1938, p. 126 (*Scyllarus batei arabicus* Holthuis, 1960).

Material : 2 males 76 mm. and 70 mm. (32 mm. and 29 mm. carapace length) and 3 females 77 mm., 72 mm. and 67 mm. (31 mm., 30 mm., and 28 mm. carapace length).

Locality : Arabian sea, S.W. of Cochin off Alleppey (Lat. 9° 25' N and Long. 75° 50' E), 130-175 fathoms.

Distribution : The species is known only from the Philippines. This is the first record of the species outside that area and from Indian waters.

Remarks : Holthuis (1960) created two subspecies *Scyllarus batei batei* and *Scyllarus batei arabicus* which are distinguished by the nature of the inflated branchial region and the transverse groove on the first abdominal somite. Since the present collection included both the subspecies of which *Scyllarus batei arabicus* has been recorded from the Arabian Sea by Alcock and Anderson as early as 1894, it was

possible to make detailed comparison of the characters of the two subspecies. Additional differences noticed are included in the following tabular statement :—

Feature	<i>Scyllarus batei batei</i>	<i>Scyllarus batei arabicus</i>
1. Length of carapace	Equal to greatest breadth at the antero-lateral angles of carapace	Greater than the breadth at the antero-lateral angles of carapace
2. Branchial region	Less inflated	Inflated
3. Branchio-cardiac groove	Indistinct	Distinct
4. Transverse groove on 1st abdominal somite	Indistinct	Well developed
5. Anterior margin of distal antennal squame	5-6 teeth	7 teeth
6. Propodite of 3rd walking leg	Twice the length of the carpus	1.5 times the length of the carpus
7. Last walking leg	Extends up to the tip of the proximal antennal squame	Extends up to the middle of the proximal antennal squame

Scyllarus rubens (Alcock and Anderson)

Arctus rubens Alcock and Anderson, 1894, p. 165.

Arctus rubens Alcock, 1901, p. 182.

Scyllarus rubens De Man, 1916, p. 69 (in key).

Material: 1 male 59 mm. (24 mm. carapace length).

Locality: Arabian Sea off Cochin (Lat. 9° 55' N and Long. 75° 35' E)—100 fathoms.

Distribution: The species is recorded from the Gulf of Mannar off Colombo in 142 to 400 fathoms. This is the first record of the species from the Arabian Sea.

Remarks: The specimen on hand agrees quite well with the original descriptions of Alcock and Anderson (1894) and Alcock (1901). Certain variations noticed may be mentioned here. Measured in the median line, the carapace is equal in length to the greatest breadth at the antero-lateral angles of the carapace and also equal to the first 5 abdominal somites measured together. The bases of the median tubercles on the 2nd and 3rd thoracic sternites are elongated by the presence of a smaller tubercle posteriorly. Among the carinae on the abdominal terga those on the 4th and 5th terga are the most prominent. A small median notch is present on the posterior margin of the 1st abdominal tergum also.

The third joint of the antennular peduncle reaches the tip of the antenna so that only the flagellar portion projects beyond the antennal squame. The two oblique ridges traversing the proximal antennal squame are quite prominent, the posterior

one beset with a few tubercles. The distal squame of the antenna has the anterior margin cut into 7 teeth. That of the right side has an additional smaller tooth on the inner margin. 2nd and 3rd pair of pereopods almost equal in length. In the 3rd and 4th pairs the merus is slightly less than twice the length of the propodus.

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