

## Redescription of female *Acetes johni* Nataraj occurring in Mumbai (Bombay) waters

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### ABSTRACT

A redescription of the female *Acetes johni* Nataraj with suitable figures is given in view of some additional features observed.

**Material** : 10 females of size 18-28 mm from Versova of Mumbai including one female of 28 mm caught in 'dol' off Alibagh.

Nataraj (1947) described a new variety of *Acetes serrulatus* var. *johni*, occurring off Trivandrum coast. Omori (1975) elevated it to the specific rank. But his redescription was confined only to males collected by Nataraj.

Since the species is found to contribute substantially to 'dol' fishery at Vesave (Versova), it was considered desirable to re-examine the females and give a detailed description.

The eye stalks are slightly less than half the length of carapace and diameter of cornea is half as long as the distal joint of the eye stalk. The basal segment of antennular peduncle is 1.2 times the length of the other segments put together. The external maxillipeds reach the tip of third antennular segment. The mandible has an incisor tooth and a two pointed palp with long setae.

The third thoracic sternite is triangular and is gently grooved. The fourth sternite is acutely pointed at ends, with median margin broadly grooved. A

small pointed process is present between bases of first pleopods.

The telson is less than half the length of inner uropod. The tip is covered with setae with two spinules at the corners. The ciliated portion, which is less than non ciliated portion of the external border of outer uropod is separated by a small tooth.

**Colour** : Nataraj reported colour of cornea and tail organs only. In addition, red markings were seen along segmentation line of abdominal segments. A red mark noted in the last abdominal segment on ventral side was not in the form of a spot. The eye stalk below the cornea in yellow in colour when fresh.

The specimen of 28 mm length as reported here is the largest ever recorded for a female of this species.

### References

- Nataraj, S. 1949. On some species of *Acetes* (Crustacea, Sergestidae) from Travancore. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 45 : 139-147.
- Omori, M. 1975. The systematics, biogeography and fishery of epipelagic shrimps of genus *Acetes* (Crustacea, Decapoda, Sergestidae). *Bull. Ocean. Res. Inst. Univ. Tokyo*, (4) : 1-83.