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Unusual landing of deep sea mud shrimp *Solenocera hextii* from Chennai coast

Solenocera hextii, the deep sea mud shrimp is usually landed by deep sea trawlers from a depth of 150-200m during January-March off Chennai. During December 2006, these shrimps were landed on three occasions on 15/12/06, 27/12/06 and 28/12/06 at Chennai fisheries harbour by multiday mechanized boats operated in the depth range of 60-70m off Chennai.

Totally 10,250 Kg of *S. hextii* were landed with an increasing CPUE of 6.36Kg on the first day, 7.33 Kg on the second day and 9.16 Kg on the third day. No other shrimps were

encountered, the catch being exclusively constituted by *S. hextii*.

The females ranged in size from 61-105mm and males from 51-95mm in total length. The males contributed 35% and females 65%. The present observation on the unusual landings of *S. hextii* by trawlers along the Chennai coast is the first report, which indicates the possible migration of the species from deep sea to the shallower region during December.

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