Gujarat and Maharashtra coast are known for the regular fishery of Acetes spp. by trawl and "dol" nets and the species forms important part of the food of all carnivorous fishes of this coast. Acetes indicus is the most common species occurring in south-west coast of India and the largest among commercially important sergestids, attaining a maximum size of 40 mm. It occurs in vast shoals in mid-water or near the surface mainly in the inshore waters. Along Karnataka coast, though there is no regular fishery for Acetes, it is occasionally caught in good quantities during September-October. It is seen that the fishery indicate the changes in current pattern along the coast and the regularity and success of the fishery depends on the magnitude and pattern of the currents.

Murdeswar bay of the Karnataka coast provides a safe place for berthing indigenous crafts. Gillnet is the major gear used in this region as the bottom is rocky and unsuitable for trawling. During first week of May, 2006 a shoal of Acetes entered into the bay, resulting in good catch for the local fishermen. The fishery started from 3rd May and lasted till 8th. Approximately 2 to 3 tons of Acetes with a size range of 20 to 30 mm was caught during these six days. The fishery was carried out with specially designed gear which is exclusively used for Acetes fishery. The gear is made of mosquito net with rectangular opening. The dimensions of the mouth of the net is 5x12 feet. The mouth part of the net is firmly knitted with thick cloth to give it a rectangular shape and inner part of the net is firmly knitted with thick cloth to give it a rectangular shape and inner part is kept loose as a belly portion. The net is tied to two poles of five feet length at each end and dragged in the bay by two people (Fig.1). The net is continuously dragged in the shallow waters till the net get clogged. The catch is emptied immediately in the basket and the dragging continues till evening. Since the bay is shallow most of the family members including children

Fig. 1 Operation of specially designed gear for Acetes collection
are engaged in the fishery. Since the fishery is irregular and unpredictable, all the fishermen house-holds keep one or more sets of the gear in fully operational condition.

Dried Acetes fetches Rs. 100 to 150 per kg in wholesale market. Acetes fishery during peak summer months is a boon for the local fishermen, since Acetes is having better market value in dried form than fresh and the shrimps gets dried in a day. Dried Acetes can be stored for long time in air tight containers and will be sold for higher rates during monsoon months, when the demand for this product is at its peak. The amount realized during six days was to the tune of rupees 1.5 lakhs.

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1188 An incidence of attachment of Barnacles on Portunid crabs landed at Chennai-Pondicherry coasts

A single berried female of portunid crab Charybdis (Charybdis) lucifera known as "Pacha Nandu" in Tamil was collected from the trawl catches landed at Pondicherry Harbour on 13-4-2006. Unusually, large number of short stalked goose barnacles, Lepas anserifera were found covering the entire dorsal surface of carapace and on both the chelipeds of crab (Fig. 1). The female crab measured 93 mm in carapace width and weighed 68 g.

65 nos. of L. anserifera were found attached to the crab and their total length varied from 25 to 32 mm. In addition, there were five tubicular worms found attached in between the barnacles. L. anserifera, a sedentary