

938 On the occurrence of the cirriped barnacle, *Chelonibia patula* (Ranzani) on the sea snake, *Hydrophis cyanocinctus* (Daudin)

Cirriped barnacles are one of the major fouling organisms of the seas. These barnacles usually found attached to piles, rocks, buoys and floating wood materials, are also seen attached on live marine animals like crabs, lobsters and sea snakes.

Nilsson (*Mem. Indian Mus.*, **13** (1): 1-18, 1938) recorded the attachment of lepas *Platylepas ophiopholis* on a sea snake *Enhydrina valakadyan* (Boie), the cirriped *Chelonibia patula* on mud crab *Scylla serrata* and *C. testudinaria* (Linn) on some species of turtles Daniel (*Bull. Madras Govt. Mus., Nat. Hist.*, **6** (2): 1-40, 1955 and **7** (2): 1-42, 1956) and Wagh and Bal (*J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, **71** (1): 109-123, 1974) have further confirmed the attachment of *C. testudinaria* on turtles and crabs. The latter workers could also observe the attachment of *C. patula* on the spiny lobsters, *Panulirus polyphagus*.

The common cirriped barnacle, *Chelonibia patula* of the Indian seas though usually found attached on crabs, lobsters and sea shells, are not reported to have found attached to sea snakes. In the present observation a sea snake *Hydrophis cyanocinctus* (Daudin) was found attached with 21 numbers of barnacles *C. patula* on its body (Fig.1). The sea snake collected on 7.5.1996 from the trawler catches landed at Rameswaram was in moulted condition.

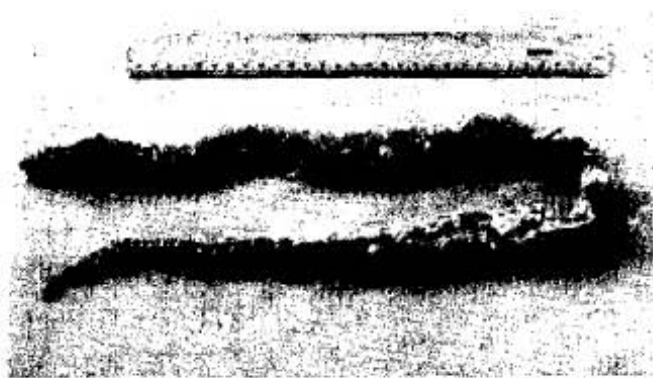


Fig. 1. The attachment of barnacle *C.patula* on the sea snake *H. cyanocinctus*.

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