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A Rare Neptunid Crab in the Marine landings of Maharashtra

M. Aravindakshan & Johnny Dias
Scientists

Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI
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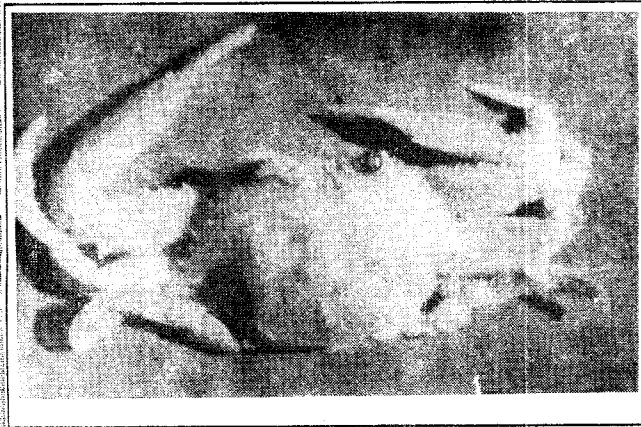
Crab meat is a highly relished seafood. Two of the large crabs of commercial value are *Neptunus pelagicus* and *N. sanguinolentus*. Aravindakshan and Karbhari (1985) listed several species of crabs that are favoured for consumption. Now species of *Neptunus* have been

noted in the marine landings at Sassoon dock, Mumbai attributable to extended operation by trawlers.

The crabs under report could not be identified from literature available. But these are closely associated to *N. gramulatus* and *N. argentatus*. These crabs are distinguishable by one red spot on the last segment of their swimming leg like a flag and its purpose is not known. This may be a warning to predators. In *P. argentatus* the spot is black and may have the same purpose. The change in colour appears to

be owing to environmental effect as red colour is exhibited generally by deep sea forms.

This genus (Photo) is of small size, an adult male having a carapace length of 23mm and a width of 33 mm. The width is measured only upto base of last dorsolateral spine. It



Neptunus Spp.

does not seem to have commercial value though damage to their population and its effects on biological environment is to be studied.

References

1. ARAVINDAKSHAN, M and J.P. KARBHARI 1985, *Indian J. Fish* Vol.4 pp 496-502
2. CHHAPGAR, B.F., 1957, *Journ. Bombay Nat. His. Soc.* 54, 399-439.

World Fishing Exhibition, Vigo'97, Spain

World fishing - Vigo'97 would be held in VIGO, Spain from 17 to 21 September, 1997. The proposed Exhibition has already attracted significant support from many parts of the world. This event will open its doors to the world of commercial fishing and it is expected that this will be the largest and the most successful one in the series dating back to 1973.

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