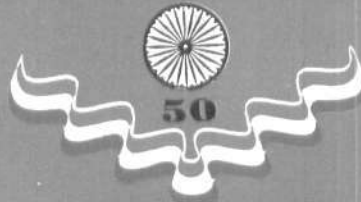


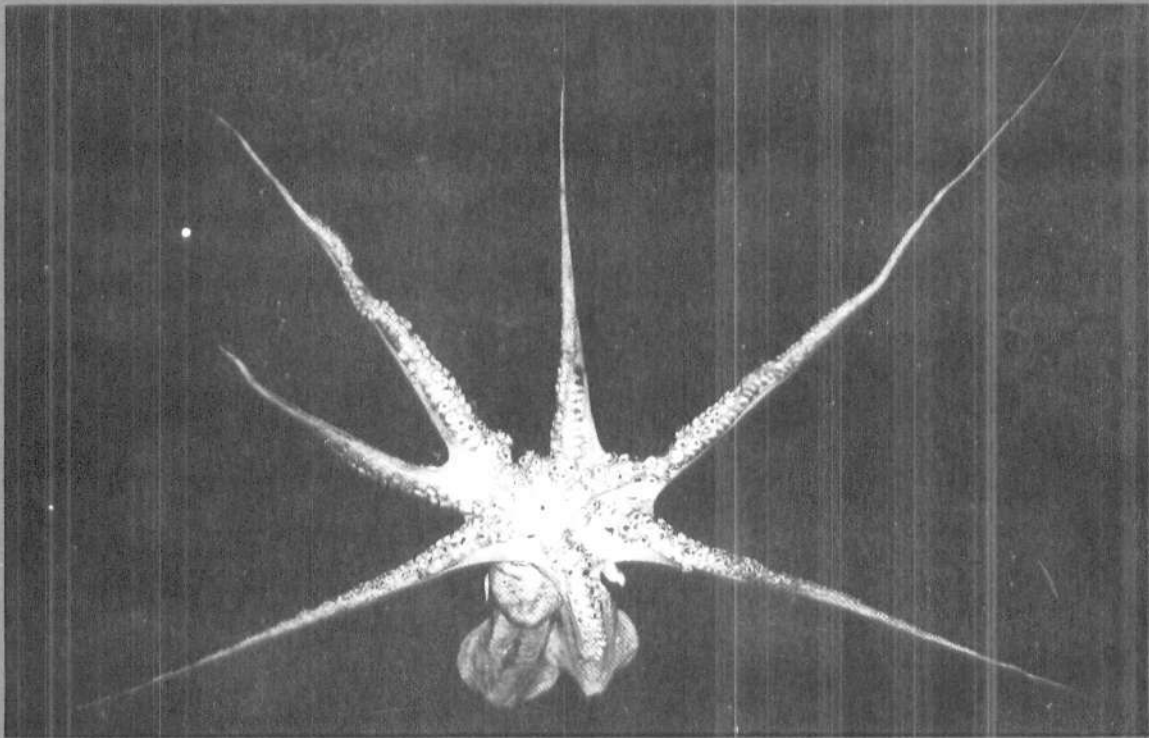


समुद्री मात्स्यिकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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तकनीकी एवं विस्तार अंकावली TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

881 BOOK REVIEW

Title	:	A Field Guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands
Editor	:	Mathew, D. Richmond
Publisher	:	The Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)
Price	:	£ 20; \$ 32
ISBN	:	91-630-4594-X
Year of publication	:	1997
No. of pages	:	448
Size	:	165 x 242 mm
Binding	:	Paperback

Since the UNCED declaration on "protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi enclosed seas and coastal areas and protection, rational use and development of their living resources", there has been a growing awareness the world over to organise environmental conservation programme, to preserve the coastal biodiversity and the habitats, to encourage the development that minimise negative impacts on coastal live support systems. As the zone is of immense importance and diverse economic use to man, the marine nations realised the priorities and as such developed many management plans. The book under review "**A guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands**" edited by **Matthew, D. Richmond** is first step to achieve the priorities in ICZM plan. It is an excellent compilation of all sea shore/coastal related patterns, processes and biological diversities in the tropical waters of Eastern Africa and Oceanic Islands presented through 448 papers, 154 colour plates and 8 colour maps. This book is the result of 6

years preparation and contribution of 48 authors from 14 countries. The complexity involved in the subject matter and their editing is admirable.

Although the central theme of the book is the taxonomic description of species occurring in the seashores and coastal habitats, the introduction spread over 39 pages provides valuable information on the problems, prospects and developmental needs in the seashore for future generations. This introduction itself is the contributions of 9 authors and very briefly touches diverse aspects. Here the editor has carefully integrated all relevant geological, physical, chemical and biological processes that have taken place in the shore habitats like mangroves, sea grass beds, rocky shores and cliffs, lagoons, coral reefs, biodiversity and ecological interactions, the people and their historical, social and economic background, livelihood activities like mangrove harvest, coral mining, coir rope manufacture, salt production, fishing, aquaculture of sea weeds, bathsponage, crustaceans molluscs and fishes; the traditional

fishing crafts and gear in the area; coastal related commercial activities like marine curios trade, live reef animals trade and coastal tourism. The loss of coastal habitats and biodiversity as a consequence of urban sewage and garbage, industrial discharges, oil pollution and the ultimate impact on environment and the socio-economics in the regions is also presented briefly in the introduction. The coastal erosion sedimentation caused by nature and trawling related formation of plumes of suspended benthic sediments and their effects on the smothering on corals and seagrass meadows are also given in this section. The authors rightly proposed ICZM plans for each maritime state in the region. The status, scope and potentials of bioprospecting in marine habitats for searching, locating and identifying candidate species, which produce a range of compounds of biomedical and therapeutic value as drugs is summarised in this general introduction, and the author proposes strategies for conservation and sustainable harvest of such valuable biota and also emphasised the impending need for pure taxonomic research. The role of FAD's and AR's in enhancing coastal production is briefly given and recommended them as a popular marine management tool for a long term economic gain from the coastal sector. The coastal dangers and treatments given in this section narrate various environmental dangers, harmful coastal insects, dangerous food and the multiple dangers in the water and proposes preventive measures as well as treatments required in each case. The introduction is concluded with a note on the use of remote sensing of coastal habitats in resource management and planning.

This guide describes about 1,600 species of plants and animals commonly encountered along the shores, in beaches, in mangrove forests, in lagoons, on mud flats, in seagrass beds, in coral reefs and in the shallow coastal habitats of Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and S. Africa and Western Indian Ocean Indian Ocean Islands like Comoros, Madagascar, Zanzibar, Reunion, Mauritius and Seychelles. The taxonomic description of common species belonging to plants, coastal lichens, marine macro algae, Cyanophyta, phytoplankton and zooplankton (under several phyla), meiofauna,

Porifera, Cnidaria, Plathelminthes, Nemertenea, Echiura and Sipuncula, Annelida, Chelicerata, Uniramia, Crustacea, Mollusca, Echinodermata, miscellaneous phyla Ascidiacea, Pisces, Reptilia, Aves and Mammalia form the bulk of this book. The species description includes the most salient identifiable characteristics, habitat, distribution and the family to which the species belongs. The species are arranged in the phylogenetic order from phylum, class, order to family. The species description together with watercolour illustrations given in this book would facilitate students, naturalists and tourists to identify the species in the field itself. Quite interestingly 15 % of this biodiversity is reported from Western Indian Ocean, and about 35 % of them are common to the Indo-Pacific region. The taxonomy is written by specialists in respective fields and followed upto date nomenclature. This guide presents the rich and diverse seashore and coastal sea biodiversity and the pressing problems that threatens the various habitats and the species. It also provides suggestion for the prevention of further degradation and conservation measures required in the coastal zone.

The appendix provided at the end of this book is an excellent treasure of information on general glossary; useful words in relevant languages; prefixes and suffixes; key to caridean shrimps, sponges, Echiura and Sipuncula; basic steps in surveys and sampling; lunar calendar; units of measurements; abbreviations; marine under coastal related organizations; coastal and marine protected areas; code of practice for visitors and bibliography of more than 1000 references related to all aspects are dealt with in the book.

This guide although pertains to the sea shore and coastal biota of Eastern Africa and Western Indian Ocean Islands, is relevant and useful to marine biology/fisheries students of India and other tropical countries, as the flora and fauna are almost common in the regions. As beach, coastal and island tourism is gaining greater importance as a fast growing industry in many maritime nations, field guides of this nature would promote tourism while the same encourages the ecotourists to protect and conserve the habitats and their biota. The tropical coasts of

India and surrounding oceanic islands with the diverse habitats and rich and varied biotic composition offer scope for similar field guides from our country as a measure to create awareness on the resources and to attract ecotourists. This book under review is a collection of appropriate and authentic record of information and is recommended as a reference text for postgraduates, college/university libararis and as a guide to ecotourists and environments.

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