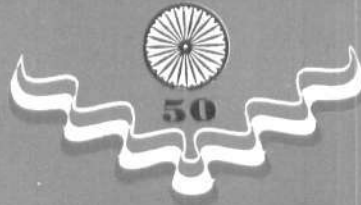


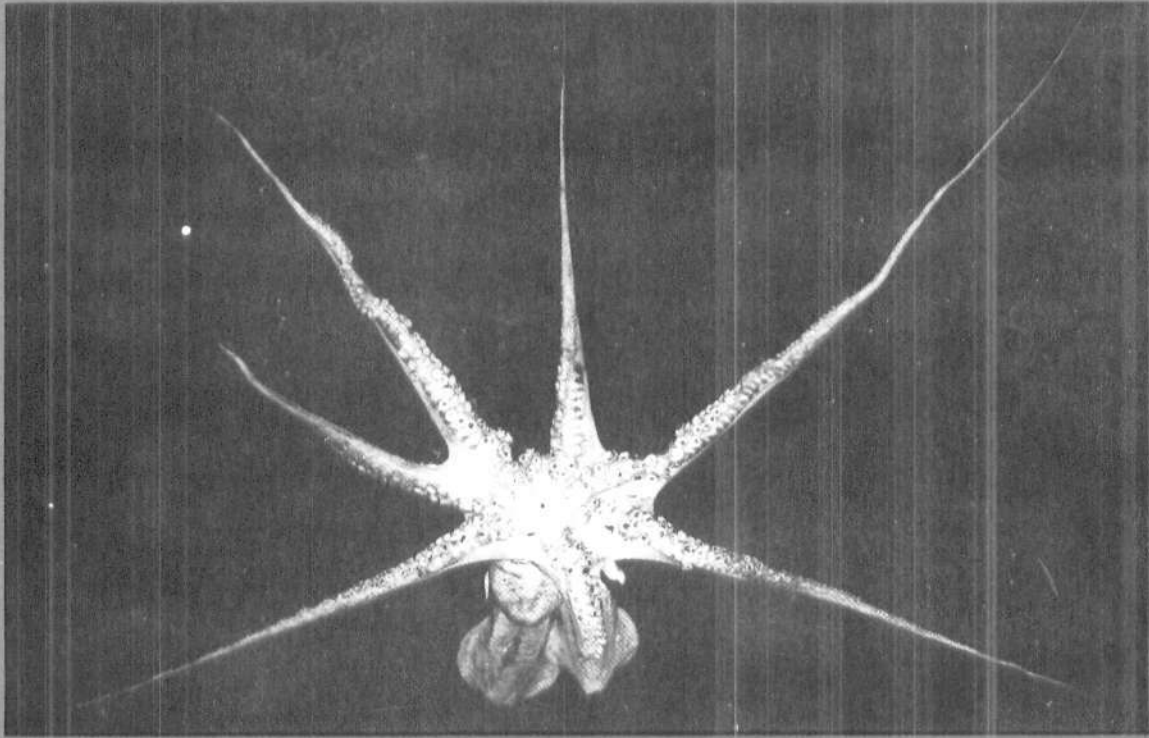


समुद्री मात्स्यिकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE



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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

presence of the gastropod parasite was indicated by the apex of the shell, which slightly projected out. When touched, it withdrew into the gall. Though thousands of *H. scabra* were examined during the last 35 years, only a few instances of such galls were noticed. Normally, the skin of *H. scabra* is 5-10 mm in thickness. As a result of gall formation, the skin becomes extra thick.

* Reported by D.B. James, Tuticorin Research Centre of CMFRI, Tuticorin - 628 001, India.

882 On the occurrence of the gastropod parasite *Prostilifer* sp. on the holothurian *Holothuria scabra* Jaeger at Tuticorin

Echinoderms, being sluggish animals are subjected to the attack of a host of fouling and parasitic organisms. They ward off these attempts to a large extent by means of the toxins present in the body wall. When the bodies are rigid as in the case of asteroids and echinoids, they have pedicellariae which act as pincers to remove undesirable organisms from the surface of the body. Despite these mechanisms, parasites do occur on echinoderms.



Fig.1. A. Entire parasite, B. Section of the skin showing the cavity where the parasite was lodged.

While collecting brood stock material for hatchery purpose, sometimes the sea cucumber *Holothuria scabra* with gall formation was noticed. When a bodywall of such specimen is cut open, a gastropod of the genus *Prostilifer* was found deeply embeded in the skin. The

Length of dorsal fin	170	Caudal fin length	65
Length of ventral fin	105	Length of mouth opening (slit)	45
Snout to pectoral fin	250	Snout length	100
Snout to dorsal fin	560	Diameter of eye	35
Snout to pelvic fin origin	510	Weight	8.2 kg
Snout to anal opening	400	Sex	Female
Base of pectoral fin	40		
Base of pelvic fin	58		
Height of body at caudal fin region	240		

Reported by A.C.C. Victor, D. Kandasami and N. Ramamoorthy, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp - 623 520, India.