
Conchylirus bhimilensis N. Sp. (Copepoda) from a Bivalve Mollusc *Meretrix casta* (Chem) off Bhimuni-patnam

Information on Copepods parasitic on marine organisms other than fishes is scanty. It was therefore of some interest to observe a copepod of the genus *Conchylirus* inhabiting the mantle cavity of a bivalve mollusc *Meretrix casta*. Of over 100 specimens examined, 10 harboured the copepod. In a few, more than one parasite was noticed. Of the 14 parasites collected 10 were females, and of these, two had ovisacs.

Conchylirus has been described earlier from *Meretrix*. Reddiah^{1,2} found two distinct species, *C. bombasticus* and *C. fragilis* from *Meretrix meretrix*. The present specimen of *Conchylirus* differs from both *C. bombasticus* and *C. fragilis* in the following respects (see Table I). Since it is felt the

TABLE I

Character	<i>C. bombasticus</i>	<i>C. fragilis</i>	<i>C. bhimilensis</i>
Colour of the live specimen	Colourless with brick-red eyespot	Colourless with brick-red eyespot	Pink, with dark red eyespot spermatophore orange brown
Size of spermatophore	0.25 mm	Did't mention	0.176 mm
Length of Ovisac	0.8 × 0.2 mm	0.65 × 0.2 mm	0.704 × 0.160 mm
No. of eggs	60-70	35 to 40	69-75
Antennule	6 segmented, has aesthetasks on 4th 5th, and 6th segments, aesthetask on the 4th segment is the shortest	6 segmented, aesthetask on the 4th segment is the longest, 6th shortest	6 segmented, aesthetask on the 4th segment is the shortest and those of the 5th and 6th segments are equal
Antenna	4 segmented, has accessory structure at the base	4 segmented, devoid of bristles and accessories structure	4 segmented, devoid of accessory structure
Labrum	Bilobed and has sinuate margin	bilobed with deeper notch and sinuate margin	Tetralobed with central two lobes deeply notched sinuate edges
Maxilliped	2 segmented and unornamented	2 segmented, slender and fragile	2 segmented ornamented and devoid of accessory structure
Swimming legs and 5th leg	The basipodites of swimming legs devoid of muscle bands. 5th leg is 2 segmented and the basipodite bears a prominent spine	The basipodites of swimming legs have prominent muscle bands, bears a spine on the basipodite of 5th leg	Prominent muscle band absent. 5th leg devoid of the spine on the basipodite

differences are significant it is proposed to erect a new species and name it *C. bhimilensis*.

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1. Reddiah, K., *J. Zool. Soc. India*, 1961, 12 (2), 137.
2. —, *Crustaceana*, 1961, 2 (4), 300.

oxygen was estimated by the unmodified Winkler's method (Ellis *et al.*⁵), and calculated according to Odum¹¹. The recorded gross photosynthetic oxygen production (59.00 gO₂/m²/day) in the pond on 1-10-1974 (Table I), appears to be the highest production.

TABLE I
Oxygen production in different water bodies

Water bodies	Gross oxygen production (gO ₂ /m ² /day)	Authors