

Bopyrid parasite *Epipenaeon ingens* (Nobili, 1906) (Bopyridae, Isopoda) infestation in penaeid shrimps of Cuddalore coast, Tamil Nadu

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While observing the regular landings of penaeid shrimps by mechanised trawlers at Cuddalore Fisheries Harbour, species belonging to *Parapenaeopsis styliifera* and *Metapenaeopsis stridulans* were found infected with the bopyrid parasite, *Epipenaeon ingens* (Nobili, 1906) during June, July and November 2010. Details on the extent of parasitic infestation are given in Table 1.

In *P. styliifera*, the percentage of parasitisation varied from 13.5 to 14.6 in males and 9.7 to 20.8 in females during pre-monsoon months (June-July), while it was 68.4 and 26.1 in males and females respectively during the monsoon month (November). In *M. stridulans*, the

parasitisation ranged from 20 to 41.7% in males and 20.8 to 27.5% in females during pre-monsoon months and 9.8% in males and 27.4% in females during November. During the three months of observation, infestation in males of *P. styliifera* registered 30.2%, when compared to 16.7% in females. However, in *M. stridulans*, more females were affected (27.4%) as compared to males (19.3%). Earlier records of presence of *E. ingens* in Indian penaeid shrimps are reported in *P. styliifera* from Malabar coast, *Metapenaeopsis stridulans*, *M. mogiensis*, *P. styliifera* and *Parapenaeopsis maxillipedo* from Chennai, *Penaeus monodon* and *P. styliifera* from Parangipettai,

Penaeus semisulcatus from the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, *Fenneropenaeus indicus* and *Solenocera crassicornis* from Kakinada and *P. monodon* from West Bengal. Though the bopyrid parasitism in penaeid shrimps was noticed in most of the months in a year during the present observation as well as

from the earlier published accounts, a detailed study may throw more light on the preferential period of occurrence of parasite and its effect on the physiological status of these commercially important crustaceans.

Table 1. Infection of bopyrid parasites in penaeid shrimps landed at Cuddalore Fisheries Harbour

Period	Species	Nos. examined		Nos. affected		Percentage of parasitism		Size range of shrimp (TL mm)	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
June 2010	<i>P. styliifera</i>	37	48	5	10	13.5	20.8	71-95	86-103
	<i>M. stridulans</i>	65	91	13	25	20	27.5	65-95	76-98
July 2010	<i>P. styliifera</i>	41	62	4	6	14.6	9.7	75-90	65-101
	<i>M. stridulans</i>	24	51	10	14	41.7	27.5	81-95	76-90
Nov. 2010	<i>P. styliifera</i>	38	46	23	6	68.4	26.1	86-90	66-85
	<i>M. stridulans</i>	61	73	6	20	9.8	27.4	60-81	55-88



Fig. 1. *P. styliifera* (a) and *M. stridulans* (b) infected with *Epipenaeon ingens*

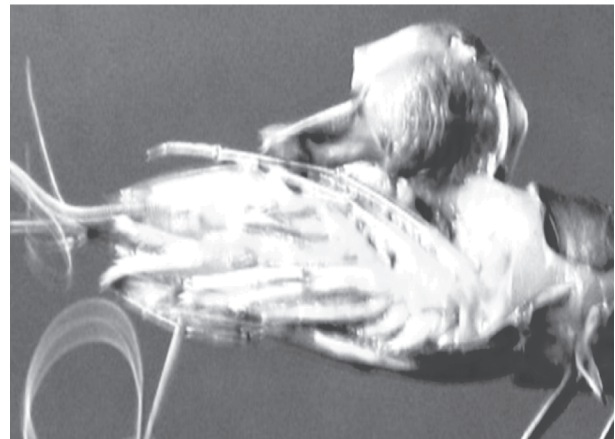


Fig. 2. Close-up view of *E. ingens* on *P. styliifera*