

First record of *Sicyonia parajaponica* Crosnier, 2003 along Chennai coast

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The miscellaneous catches from the trawlers operating in the inshore waters (40-60 m depth) off Chennai coast consist of smaller sized crustaceans such as penaeid shrimps (belonging to the genera *Penaeus*, *Fenneropenaeus*, *Metapenaeus*, *Parapenaeopsis*, *Metapenaeopsis*, *Trachypenaeus*, *Megokris*, *Trachysalamprica*, *Parapenaeus*,

Sicyonia and *Solenocera*), brachyuran crabs, cephalopods and fishes, which are usually dried on the beach and utilised as one of the ingredients for poultry feed. The common species of *Sicyonia* encountered is *Sicyonia lancifer*, which has the characteristic two blue spots in the integument between carapace and abdomen (Fig.1).

On 10 - 03 - 2011, four specimens (two males: 64 and 67 mm in total length; 15 and 18 mm in carapace length, CL and two females: 60 and 68 mm in TL and 18 and 19 mm in CL) of *Sicyonia*, which differed from *S. lancifer* by having a round spot near the posterior border of carapace (Fig. 2a and b) were obtained. On closer scrutiny, they were identified as *Sicyonia parajaponica* Crosnier, 2003. In the present specimen of *S. parajaponica*, the rostrum possesses 9 dorsal and 2 ventral teeth and the median carina on first and second abdominal segments are sharp and elevated. The entire

body is covered with scattered large brown tubercles.

S. parajaponica was described by Crosnier in 2003 while reviewing the taxonomical status of *Sicyonia* species occurring in the Indo-West Pacific, based on the specimens obtained from the Philippines. According to Crosnier (2003), *S. parajaponica* has been recorded from the Gulf of Aden, Phuket in the Andaman Sea, the Philippines, Australia, China and Taiwan. The present record from Chennai coast is the first report of the species from Indian waters.



Fig. 1. *Sicyonia lancifer*

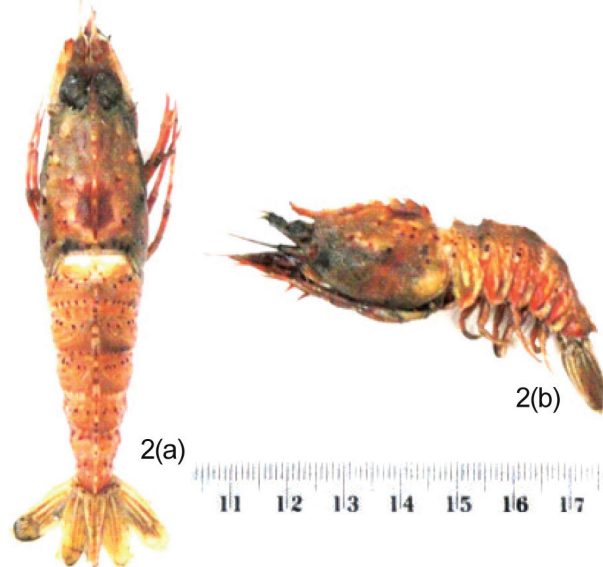


Fig. 2. a and b. *Sicyonia parajaponica*