

# Record of the squat lobster *Munidopsis scobina* Alcock, 1894 off Chennai coast

P. Thirumilu

Research Centre of CMFRI, Chennai

In the deep sea catches landed at Kasimedu Fisheries Harbour on 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011, one male and three female specimens (Fig. 1 and 2) of squat lobster were observed. They were identified as *Munidopsis scobina* Alcock, 1894. The male specimen, which was caught at 200- 400 m depth range, off Chennai coast along with deep sea shrimps, lobsters and fishes, measured 44 mm in total length (TL) and 21 mm in carapace length (CL). The females measured 45, 40 (berried) and 35 mm in TL and 24, 21 and 17 mm in CL. The colour of the body was

orange with white horizontal bands on carapace and edges of abdominal segments. The telson was light orange in colour. The eggs were large and yellow in colour, carapace with dorsal spines and interrupted striae after the cervical groove, the rostrum smooth, eyes small and movable. It has been recorded from Andaman Sea at 439 m in 1894, Bay of Bengal at 265-458 m in 1894, northern end of Bay of Bengal at 353-748 m in 1901, and off Kollam at 180-400 m in 1974. The present record in 2011 is from Chennai coast at 200-400 m.



Fig. 1. *Munidopsis scobina*-berried female (dorsal and ventral view)

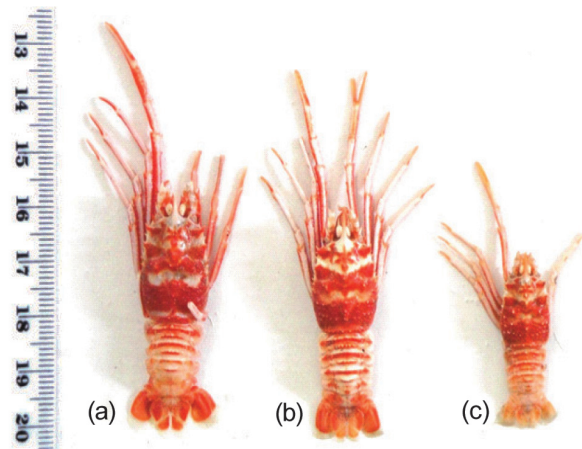


Fig. 2. *Munidopsis scobina*-male (a) and females (b,c)