

Unusual landing of the rare penaeid shrimp *Metapenaeus lysianassa* at Karaikkal, south-east coast of India

Indira Divipala and P. Thirumilu
Research Centre of CMFRI, Chennai

The “bird shrimp” *Metapenaeus lysianassa* (De Man, 1888), (*Kuni era* in Tamil) has been recorded in stray numbers from Mandapam in Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Nagapatinam, Cuddalore, Chennai, Machilipatnam, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Paradeep, Sandheads and Andamans. The species is known to attain a maximum size of 55 mm and 90 mm in total length for male and female respectively. On 1st september 2012, while observing the trawl landings at Karaikkal Fisheries Harbour, about 50 kg of *M. lysianassa* (Fig. 1 and 2) was noticed among the shrimp catch (total 60 kg) landed by one of the trawlers. The other species in the order of abundance were *Fenneropenaeus indicus*, *Penaeus semisulcatus*, *Metapenaeus*



Fig. 1. *Metapenaeus lysianassa* landed at Karaikkal Fisheries Harbour



Fig. 2. Largest female of *M. lysianassa* collected at Karaikkal

dobsoni, *Parapenaeopsis maxillipedo* and *Solenocera crassicornis*. On the day of observation, totally 25 trawlers were operated. In the rest of trawlers, 2 to 4 kg of *M. lysianassa* were caught. The size range (total length) for male and female was 63 - 78 mm and 55 - 95 mm respectively. The male and female sex ratio was 1:4.