

A record of the brown mussel *Perna indica* in the intertidal zone along Mumbai coast of Maharashtra

Sujit sundaram

Mumbai Research Centre of CMFRI, Mumbai

The green mussel *Perna viridis* has a wider distribution along the Indian coast, whereas brown mussel *P. indica* has very restricted distribution, along the southern tip of India, extending from Pondicherry to Cochin (Kuriakose & Nair, 1976). For the first time the occurrence of *P. indica* (Fig.1) is reported from the intertidal zone at Worli, Mumbai, thereby establishing the distribution of the species along the Maharashtra coast also.



Fig. 1. *Perna indica*

The intertidal region has many species of bivalves reported from Mumbai waters such as *P. viridis*, *Gafrarium divaricatum*, *Katelsia opima* etc. by Subramanyam *et al.* (1949) and Jaiswar and Kulkarni (2001 and 2005). The specimens were collected during low tide and the length ranged between 25 and 55 mm with weight ranging from 3.392 to 21.186 g. According to Kuriakose and Nair (1976), the maximum length of the species is 121 mm. The species was observed throughout the year with the peak period of abundance during April - June.

About 10% of *P. indica* collected were observed with infestation by tiny pea crab *Pinnotheres* sp. measuring between 6 and 8 mm. The record of *P. indica* from Mumbai waters confirms the establishment of brown mussel in Maharashtra waters. Jetani (2004) has reported the extension of distribution range of *P. viridis* in Gujarat waters.