

NOTES

CARCINOPLAX VERDENSIS RATHBUN (DECAPODA : BRACHYURA : GONEPLACIDAE) A NEW RECORD FROM INDIAN WATERS

ABSTRACT

The occurrence of *Carcinoplax verdensis* Rathbun from Indian waters is reported here for the first time together with a brief note on the description of the male pleopods.

WHILE analysing the deep water fish and prawn catches landed by the Fishing Vessel KLAUS SUNNANA a male specimen of *Carcinoplax verdensis* Rathbun was obtained on 1-11-1968 from the southwest coast of India. A perusal of literature on the distribution of the species revealed that it has been reported only from Philippines. Since this is the first record of the species from Indian waters, a brief description of the same together with an account of pleopods which has not been described earlier is given in this note.

Carcinoplax verdensis Rathbun

(Fig. 1)

Carcinoplax verdensis Rathbun, 1914, p. 143.
Fesch, 1918, p. 154 (list of species) Serene and
Lohavanijaya, 1973, p. 52 (key to the species).

Material: One male, 69 mm carapace width (54 mm carapace length).

Locality: Arabian Sea, off Qulou (Lat. 9° 02'N Long. 75° 38'E), 350 m.

Distribution: The species is known only from the Philippines. This is the first record of the species outside that area and from Indian waters.

Remarks: Except the large size, the specimen on hand agrees with the description of *C. verdensis* given by Rathbun (1914) in the following morphological features. Carapace nearly 1.3 times as broad as long and slightly

depressed; three anterolateral teeth, of which tip of the 2nd tooth not reaching the level of the 1st tooth; chela stout and smooth; right chela slightly stouter and longer than the left; distal part of the fingers coloured with dark



FIG. 1. *Carcinoplax verdensis*: First and second pleopod and abdomen of male.

brown; propodus and dactylus of all the walking legs provided with dense hairs along the sides; terminal portion of the dactylus pointed and bare.

As there was no description of the abdomen and pleopods given by Rathbun (1914), a short account of the same is given here (Fig. 2). The general shape of the abdomen resembles that of *C. hispidosa*, but the edge of the sixth segment pointed downwards. The first segment is longer than any other segments. Among the pleopods the first pleopod is thin

and longer than the second which is short and stout as in the allied species. The tip of the 1st pleopod is simple and concave. The tip of the 2nd pleopod resembles that of the second pleopod of *C. purpurea* in general shape. But in *C. verdensis* there are more pointed tubercles and short spines on the inner and outer border respectively.

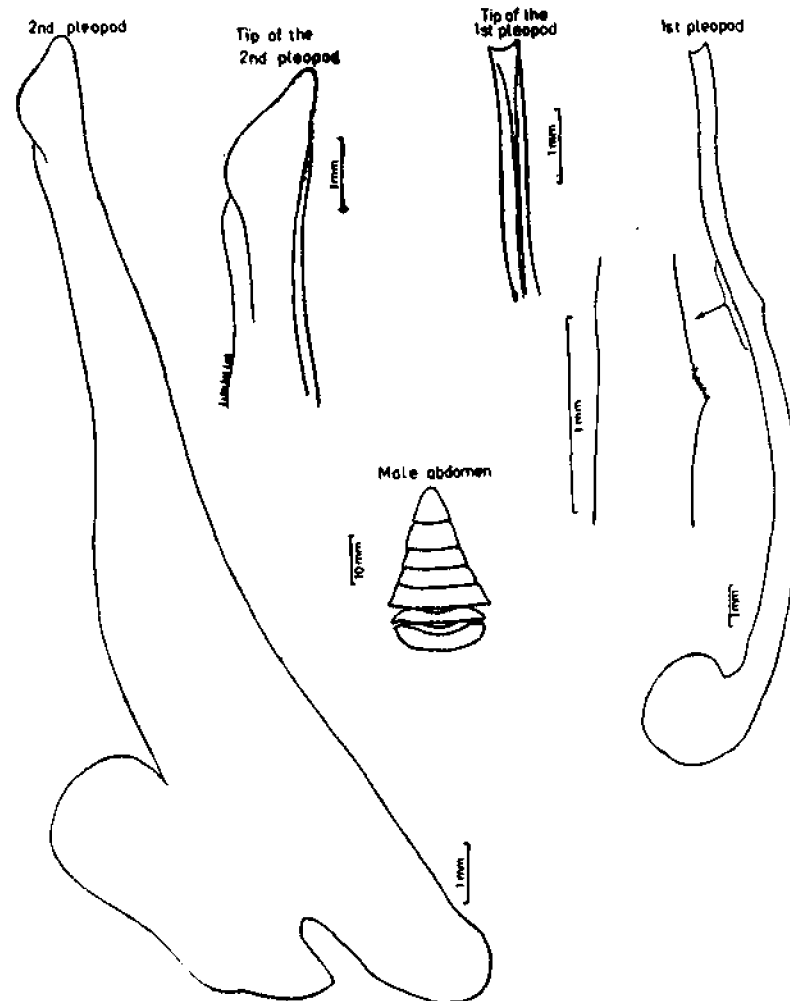


FIG. 2. *Carcinoplax verdensis* Rathbun.

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