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The Marine Fisheries Information Service : Technical and Extension Series envisages dissemination of information on marine fishery resources based on research results to the planners, industry and farmers and transfer of technology from laboratory to field.

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1150 An incidence of bivalve spats settled on a Portunid crab

A single berried specimen of *Charybdis annulata* measuring 65 mm in carapace length and weighing 55 g was collected from Chennai Fisheries Harbour on 24th March 2005 with unusually large number of epizooties, especially bivalve spat attached to the the carapace and ventral side of the crab.

There were many organisms attached to the ventral side of the telson, carapace and even on appendages. Spat of the green mussel *Perna viridis*, rock oyster *Saccostrea cucullata* and *Anomia* sp. were found only on the ventral side along the lateral portion of the berried egg mass, while the oyster spat and other animals were attached on the dorsal side. Details of the bivalves attached are :

19 spat of green mussel measuring 1.5 mm to 5.0 mm in total length;

2 spat of rock oyster measuring 4.9 mm to 5.2 mm in total length;

3 *Anomia* sp. measuring 3.0 to 3.5 mm in total length.

In addition to these organisms, there were 13 branacles, 5 bryozoan colonies and a number



Spat of *Saccostrea cucullata* and *Anomia* sp. attached on the crab

of tubicolous worms attached to the crab.

Though incidences of epizootic forms attaching to other animals are common, occurrence of such large number of organisms, especially the spat of green mussel and edible oyster on a crab is unusual and interesting. The crab belongs to the group, referred to as “swimming crabs”, which are active swimmers. It is not understood how the animal gave scope for settlement of such large number of foulers, in spite of its active mode of life. Moreover, the crab appears to have tolerated the attachments for a prolonged time, which is evident from the size of the bivalve spat, which were at least 2 months old and the crab has not moulted during the period.



Spat of *Perna viridis* attached to the ventral side the crab

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