

***Squillaoides leptosquilla*, a deepsea stomatopod landed at Kalamukku Fishing Harbour, Kochi**

S. Lakshmi Pillai, C. Unnikrishnan and M. Radhakrishnan
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

The mantis shrimp, *Squillaoides leptosquilla* (Brooks, 1886) was obtained from deepsea trawl operations along with the deepsea shrimps, *Plesionika spinipes*, *Heterocarpus gibbosus* and *Metapenaeopsis andamanensis* from the Kalamukku Fishing Harbour during September, 2008. *Squillaoides leptosquilla* earlier known as *Squilla leptosquilla* was first reported in India from the Arabian Sea during the deepsea exploratory survey by M. V. Kalava off Alleppey and later during the FORV *Sagar Sampada* expedition along the south-west coast of India. This mantis shrimp has a creamish body colour with orange carinations on the carapace and abdomen. The posterior extremity of the telson and uropod are also orange in colour. The dactylus of the raptorial claw is white in colour with four teeth. Another characteristic feature is the presence of an intermediate carina on the carapace. This species has brown spot on either side of the median carina of the telson. It measured 125 mm in total length and was obtained off Kochi. The FORV *Sagar Sampada* expedition reported a size

range of 120-160 mm in total length. The species is found at a depth of 200-500 m and are distributed in the seas around India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Indonesia (type locality), the Philippines, Australia and Japan. In Japanese waters, *S. leptosquilla* is reported to feed voraciously on the deepsea penaeid shrimp *Solenocera melantho*.



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