



ISSN 2320-7078
 JEZS 2014; 2 (4): 18-20
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 Received: 09-06-2014
 Accepted: 19-06-2014

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First Record of Two Australian Species: One under *Metapenaeopsis* and Another under *Metapenaeus* from Indian Water, Their Diagnosis and Distribution

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ABSTRACT

Genus *Metapenaeopsis* was created by Bouvier (1905) ^[1] with *M. pubescens* as type from Cape Verde Islands. Wood-Mason (1891) ^[2] was the first to record this genus from Indian water as *Metapenaeus*. George (1979) ^[3] listed 9 species under *Metapenaeopsis* and 11 species under *Metapenaeus* from Indian coastal water. Subsequently Fischer & Bianchi (1983) ^[4] and Radhakrishnan *et al.* (2012) ^[5] added another species viz., *Metapenaeopsis toloensis* Hall, 1962 ^[6] and *Metapenaeopsis novaeguineae* (Haswell, 1879) ^[7] respectively to this list. In the present study *Metapenaeopsis palmensis* (Haswell, 1879) ^[7] and *Metapenaeus eboracensis* Dall, 1957 ^[8] have been recorded for the first time from India. Till now 12 species each belonging to these two genera have been reported from Indian water.

Keywords: *Metapenaeopsis*, *M. novaeguineae*, *M. palmensis*, *Metapenaeus*, *M. eboracensis*, Records, Indian, Coastal, Water.

1. Introduction

Among a variety of edible decapod crustaceans, prawns contribute largely to the fishery wealth of many nations. Exploitation of prawn resource from the seas around each country is playing increasingly significant role in furthering their national economy. In recent years, inspite of some ecological hazards, the demand for prawns and prawn products has increased so much that every country is making efforts to utilize hitherto unknown but usable stocks. Expansion of prawn fisheries and industries near coast line is rightly being given the maximum encouragement in the development programme of each nation. Present study reveals that Indian water represents a total of 12 species each of the genus *Metapenaeopsis* and *Metapenaeus*. As per our investigation *Metapenaeopsis palmensis* (Haswell, 1879) and *Metapenaeus eboracensis* (Dall, 1957) are the two new additions to the Indian list.

2. Materials and Methods

The present study is mainly based on the specimens collected from Andhra Pradesh Coast during 1995-1997 by the author and the specimens were preserved in rectified spirit (90%) in general collection of Zoological Survey of India Kolkata. They were studied under a stereoscopic binocular microscope. The detailed synonymies have been furnished to the genus and species and also their diagnosis, distribution, taxonomic remarks have been furnished. In addition an attempt has been made to include a comprehensive coverage of the references in the reference section. For all citations of taxon author's name and year of publication has been given. A brief history, diagnosis and distribution of three species are dealt separately in results and discussion section.

3. Results and Discussion

(I) *Metapenaeopsis palmensis* (Haswell, 1879)

M. palmensis was originally described as *Penaeus palmensis* by Haswell (1879) from N.E. Coast of Australia. A brief history of the species are given below.

- 1879 *Penaeus palmensis* Haswell, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. 4(1):38-44.
 1911 *Penaeopsis palmensis* De Man, Siboga Exped. Monogr. No. 39a:1-131.
 1955 *Penaeopsis (Metapenaeopsis) novaeguineae* Racek, Aust. J. Mar. Freshw. Res, 6(2): 209-241.
 1965 *Metapenaeopsis palmensis* Racek and Dall, Verh. K. ned. Akad. Wet, 56:1-116.

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