

Crabs were mainly represented by *Portunus sanguinolentus*, stomatopods by *Oratosquilla* spp., prawns by *Acetes* spp., *Metapenaeus* spp., *Leander* spp., *Solenocera* spp., *Trachypenaeus curvirostris*, squids by *Loligo duvaucelii*, silverbellies by *Letognathus bindus*, ribbonfishes by *Trichurus lepturus*, anchovies by *Stolephorus* spp. Among the miscellaneous fishes the most common were *Upeneus* spp., *Saurida* spp., nemipterids, *Sphyræna* spp., etc. Semidigested matter comprised mostly by fish remains.

Chacko (1949) reported the food of *T. thalassinus* from the Gulf of Mannar comprising as fishes and algae. Suseelan and Nair (1969) from Bombay waters reported crabs, fishes,

prawns, stomatopods, polychaetes. Mojumdar (1961) from off the North Andhra and Orissa Coasts reported the food of this species comprising mostly of crabs, prawns, *Squilla* spp. and demersal fishes. Menon (1979) reported echinurids, crabs, prawns, polychaetes, stomatopods and fishes from Palk Bay (Mandapam area) and *Philine* sp., crabs, alpheidids, prawns, ostracods, amphipods and fishes from the Gulf of Mannar (Mandapam area) forming the dominant food items of this species. The present study largely confirms the results of earlier studies on the food of this species from different localities indicating that *T. thalassinus* is a carnivore subsisting mainly on crabs, stomatopods, other crustaceans, squids and a variety of teleostean fishes.

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### FIRST RECORD OF *BENTHOMISOPHRIA PALLIATA* SARS, 1909 (COPEPODA, MISOPHRIIDAE) FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN

#### ABSTRACT

The present note reports the record of *Benthomisophria palliata* Sars, 1909 (Copepoda: Misophriidae) for the first time from the Indian Ocean and fifth in the world oceans. These specimens were collected in a vertical zooplankton haul at 24°09'N and 64°27'E on March 29, 1967. Both the specimens are copepodite V, female measuring 1.56 mm and 1.66 mm. Some of the characteristics slightly differ from those previously described by the other authors.

THE BATHYPELAGIC copepods from all oceans are less known compared to the epipelagic forms and the bathypelagic copepods from the

Indian Ocean are particularly poorly known compared to those of other oceans. This note records *Benthomesophria palliata* (Family

Misophriidae) for the first time from the Indian Ocean.

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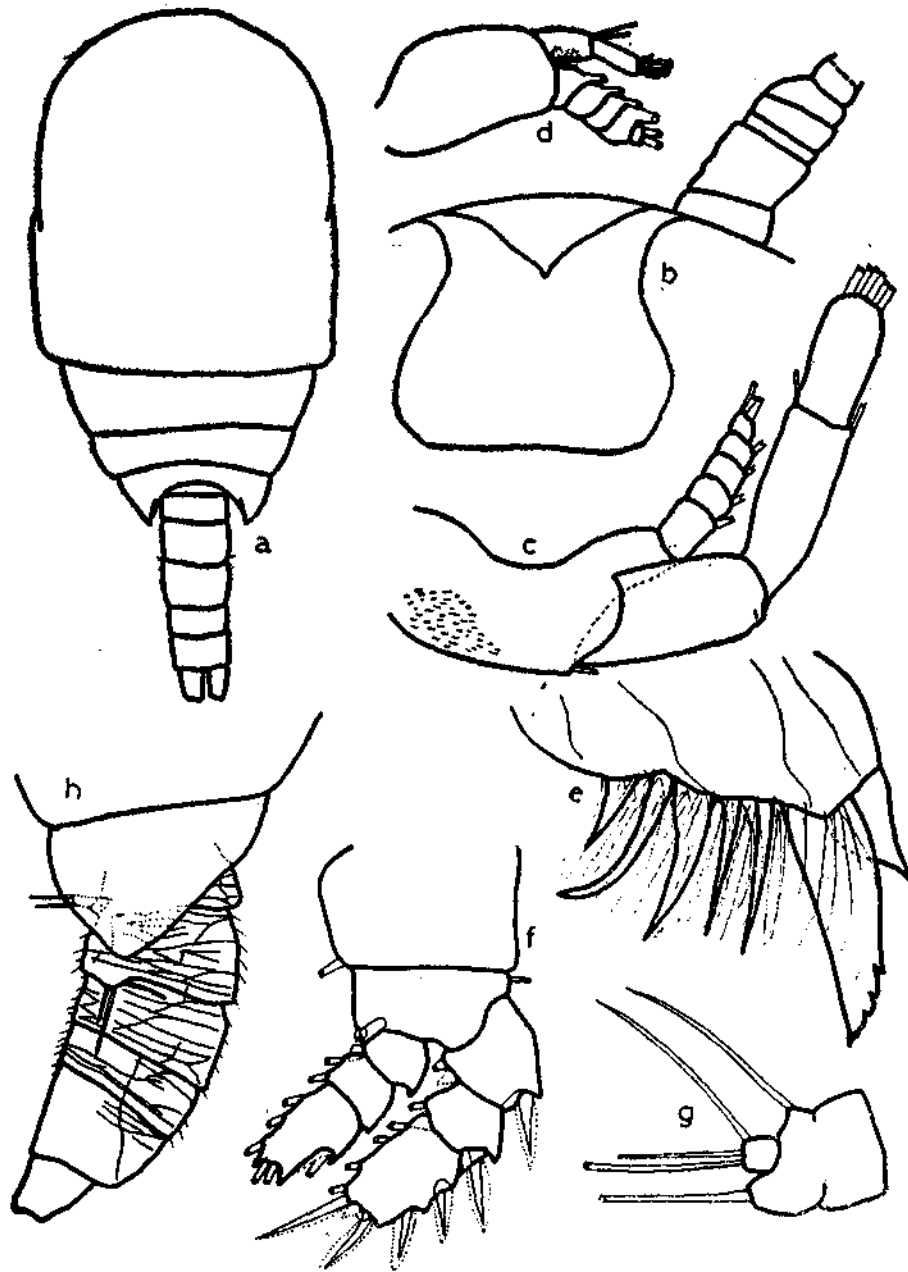


FIG. 1. *Benthomispria pallata* Sars, 1909. Female copepodid fifth stage: a. dorsal view, b. head-ventral view, c. second antenna, d. mandibular palp, e. jaw; f. first leg, g. fifth leg and h. thoracic segment and abdomen-lateral view.

Helgoland, F. R. Germany for the supply of necessary literature, confirmation of illustrations and for her valuable criticism.

#### Material

The specimens were collected on P.N.S. 'Zulfiquar' at a deepsea station (sounding 3219 m) located at 24° 09' N and 64° 27' E on March 29, 1967. The International Indian Ocean Standard Net was employed to obtain vertical samples of zooplankton from a depth of 1500 m. This study material consists of two females (copepodite V) measuring 1.56 mm and 1.66 mm. Both the specimens examined were slightly damaged.

#### Remarks

Present specimens to much extent agree with *B. palliata* except that the sizes are distinctly smaller than those reported previously (Sars, 1909; Boxshall and Roe, 1980). Boxshall and Roe (1980) show that the size range for each stage is extremely wide. It is also noted

that the shape of spines on the outer margin of exopod of the 1st leg, and of base of the 5th leg, and the size of the setae on 6th leg differ slightly from those in *B. palliata* as previously described.

Boxshall and Roe (1980) studied the 3 species of *Misophria* and *Benthomesophria*.

Boxshall (1983) described 3 new genera in the order Misophrioida from deep water in the North Atlantic. All the known genera are monotypic except the *Benthomtsophria* which consists of two species: *B. palliata* Sars, 1909 and *B. cornuta* Hülsemann and Grice, 1964. Both of these species have been recorded from the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans (Sars, 1909; Tanaka, 1966; Boxshall and Roe, 1980). Neither of the species of the genus *Benthomtsophria* has previously been recorded from any part of the Indian Ocean. This is the first record of *B. palliata* from the Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea) and the fifth in the world Oceans.

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### ON THE VALIDITY OF A PERCH *EPINEPHELUS ANGULARIS* (PISCES : SERRANIDAE)

#### ABSTRACT

Based on the descriptions and figures of earlier authors there is no basis for treating *Epinephelus angularis* as synonym of *areolata*. The present study suggests that *angularis* of Day (1875) with emarginate caudal, large and less number of spots on the body and maxillary extending to below middle of pupil is a valid species.

THE ANGULAR perch is represented intermittently in small numbers in the trawl catches from November to March and from May to August at Visakhapatnam (17°44' N; 83°23'E.)