

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SQUILLA LEPTOSQUILLA* BROOKS  
(CRUSTACEA, STOMATOPODA) IN THE WEST COAST OF INDIA

Although Indian stomatopods have been studied extensively by Kemp (1913), Kemp and Chopra (1921), Chopra (1934) and recently by Tiwari and Biswas (1952), there has been no record of *Squilla leptosquilla* Brooks from the Arabian Sea. On 14-3-1963, while examining the bottom trawl collections made during the exploratory deep sea trawling cruise of *M.V. KALAVA*, three specimens of *Squilla leptosquilla* Brooks were obtained among other interesting deep sea fishes from off Alleppey. The present communication records the occurrence of this rare deep water species for the first time in the Arabian Sea and provides supplementary descriptions which are considered to be of taxonomic significance (Manning, 1963).

*Squilla leptosquilla* Brooks

*Squilla leptosquilla* Brooks, 1886, p. 30; Bigelow, 1894, p. 510; Alcock & Anderson, 1889, p. 272; Jurich, 1904, pp. 370-372; Kemp, 1913, p. 46 and Hansen, 1926, p. 10.

*Material*: 3 males, 121, 123 and 134 mm. in length (from the tip of the rostrum to the tip of the submedian spine of the telson).

*Locality*: Arabian Sea, Southwest coast of India, off Alleppey (Lat. 9°25' N., Long. 75°40'E.), 180 fathoms.

*Distribution*: Celebes Sea, near Philippines—115 F. (Brooks); around Andamans—185-419 F. (Kemp); off Nicobars—296 m. (Jurich, and off Guinea—310 m. (Hansen). This is the first record of the species on the west coast of India.

*Remarks*: The specimens on hand agree with the descriptions given by Brooks (1886) and Kemp (1913). Papillae on antennal protopod and mandibular palp absent; propodus of third maxilliped slightly longer than broad; of the fourth as long as broad and of the fifth much longer than broad. Epipods present on first four thoracic limbs, first epipod reniform and largest, the second about half

the size of first and third and fourth almost equal and slightly smaller than second. Ventral keel present on eighth thoracic somite. A distinct notch is present in the submedian carinae of the second abdominal segment. Each intermediate carinae of second to sixth abdominal segment also bears a notch at about the anterior one-third of its length. Small tubercles present anteriorly in between the intermediate and lateral carinae on the first to the fifth abdominal segments.

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