

**AN ABNORMAL FORM OF *ALPHEUS MALABARICUS* FABRICIUS,  
FROM THE GODAVARI ESTUARINE SYSTEM**

ABNORMAL development of body parts is very well known in decapod Crustacea. All the species under the genus *Alpheus* Fabricius possess unequal and unsymmetrical first pair of thoracic legs (Stebbing, 1893 p. 231). *Alpheus malabaricus* Fabricius is abundant on the intertidal mud flats in the lower reaches of the Gautami Godavari estuary. One of the specimens recorded from the estuary showed symmetrical character of the first pair of thoracic legs, the smaller chela being present on both the right and left sides (Figure 1). The body measurements together with the measurements of the small chela are given below :—

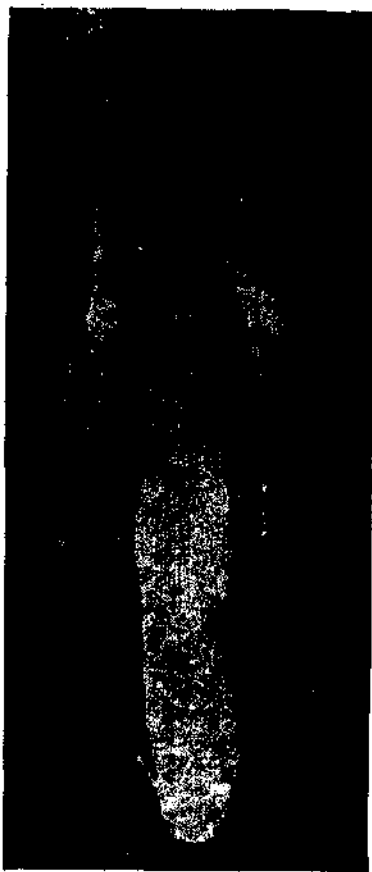


FIG. 1. *Alpheus malabaricus* Fabricius (dorsal view).

Total length 3.5 cm. (from the tip of the rostrum to the tip of the telson) :  
Dorsal carapace length—1.4 cm.

<i>Small chela</i>		<i>Right (mm.)</i>	<i>Left (mm.)</i>
Ischium	..	2.0	2.0
Merus	..	7.0	7.0
Carpus	..	2.0	2.0
Propodus	..	5.0	5.0
Dactylus	..	16.0	16.0
Movable dactyl	..	16.0	15.0

In the normal form the large chela is usually found either on the left or right side. It is not clear on which side the small chela regenerated in place of the large chela since the pair of appendages are identical in all respects.

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#### REFERENCE

STEBBING, T. R. R. 1893. *A History of Crustacea*. Kegan Paul, Trench Trubner & Co., Ltd., London.