

on *Petrosia testudinaria* and not on any other sessile animals or sponges along the bottom to a stretch of nearly 600 sq. km. up to a depth of 23 metres. The incidence of occurrence of this synaptid was noticed greatest in the area at depths 17-22 m. and has not been noticed on *Petrosia* occurring in less deep waters. More than one synaptid of the said species was often found over the same sponge. There were many *Petrosia* in the area which did not have this synaptid also.

It is difficult to think of any other reason as to why *Petrosia* should be preferred as a host except that the hard sponge body may serve as a firm attachment for the synaptid.

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Central Marine Fisheries Research Unit,
Tuticorin.

K. NAGAPPAN NAYAR,
S. MAHADEVAN.

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ON A SWARM OF SALPS, *PEGEA CONFOEDERATA* (FORSKAL),
FROM THE GUJARAT COAST

Pegea confoederata (Forsk.) has a wide range of distribution from Hawaii to the Gulf of Oman. Though the distribution and seasonal variation of *P. confoederata* from the Bay of Bengal is well understood, our knowledge of the same from the West Coast of India is very meagre, but for the information of Apstein (1906) and Metcalf (1918). From Bay of Bengal *P. confoederata* has been recorded from Preparis Channel (Bomford, 1913; Sewell, 1926), and from Madras Coast (Nair and Aiyar, 1943; Nair, 1949). However, no record of such an aggregate form is available from the Gujarat Coast.

On November 17th, 1963, close to the shore at Rupan on the Gujarat Coast (18°53'E, 22°15'N), a swarm of *P. confoederata* (Forsk.), solitary as well as aggregate forms was noticed. The swarm extended about three kilometers long and about a hundred meters wide with thousands of dead and living salps. The forms closer to the shore were dead while those in the sea were alive. It was interesting to note that the salps settled on the rocks and reefs due to the tidal influence were alive for more than three hours, which was evident from the pulsating movement of the siphons when released in the sea water. The salps were large and measured 30 mm. to 45 mm. in length. The occurrence of *P. confoederata* on the coast of Rupan was preceded by heavy rain and wind in the sea. Probably these were responsible for drifting large swarm of *P. confoederata* towards

the shore. The present report confirms the earlier observations on the presence of solitary forms of *P. confederata* from the tidal zones. This appears to be the first record of the occurrence of *P. confederata* (Forsk.) from the Gujarat Coast.

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute,
Mandapam Camp.

R. L. LAL MOHAN.

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A NOTE ON HOST SPECIFICITY OF THE ISOPOD PARASITE, *NEROCILA* SP.

Host specificity is very strongly expressed in a great number of fish parasites, especially in the majority of ectoparasites like isopods. While engaged in the length frequency studies of the Indian Herring, *Ilisha filigera* (Val.) landed by bull trawlers of the New India Fisheries Company Limited at Sassoon Docks, the isopod parasite, *Nerocila* sp. was seen very commonly in *Ilisha indica* during the months of December and February. Though this has been already observed by Chidambaram and Devidas Menon (1945) in Calicut, the case of host specificity among the species of the same genus has not been pointed out so far.

Indian Herring (locally called 'Kati') are mainly represented in trawler catches by *Ilisha filigera* (Val.) though occasionally *I. indica* are also landed in small quantities.

TABLE

Date of landing	Region where caught	No. of <i>I. filigera</i> examined	No. infected	No. of <i>I. indica</i> examined	No. infected
16-12-59	Kutch	44	Nil	132	53
23-2-60	Kutch	76	Nil	75	20

It can be seen from Table that though both the species were caught in the same region, the parasite was found to occur only in *I. indica*. The seat of infection was on the caudal peduncle and also the inside of the gill chambers (Figs. 1 & 2). They were found attached to the host by hook-like projections of their man-