

The specimens caught measured 158 to 195 mm in total length, however, the fully mature specimens were abundant during July. Females outnumbered the males.

The unusual occurrence of oil sardine in Pondicherry was attributed to the under water drift locally known as 'Vannivellam' flowing towards southwards during north east monsoon, however, the abundant occurrence of oil sardine at Parnagipettai coast was observed during June, July and August and hence

no explanation is offered presently, but further research is initiated to understand this unusual occurrence of oil sardine along the east coast, which is worth monitoring in view of its inherent fluctuation and seasonal migrations.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. K. Krishnamoorthy, Director, CAS in Marine Biology for providing the facility and Dr. K. Balasubramanyam, Senior Research Officer for his valuable advice and Dr. V. Ramaiyan, for his guidance.

Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology,
Parangipettai - 608 502.

K. P. SIVAKUMARAN

REFERENCES

- ANON. 1985. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv. T & E Ser.*, 61: 16-17.

NOTE ON THE ABNORMALITIES IN THE EDIBLE PORTUNID CRAB *SCYLLA SERRATA* (FORSKAL)

ABSTRACT

Abnormalities in the edible Portunid crab *Scylla serrata* (Forsk.) is reported for the first time from Porto Novo waters, east coast of India.

SCYLLA SERRATA is an Indo-Pacific edible crab commonly found in all the estuaries and backwaters. 153 specimens were collected on July 7, 1986 from the upper reaches of Vellar Estuary (11° 29' N; 79° 46' E) and two of them showed abnormalities in carapace and cheliped. Even though abnormalities have been reported for *Thalamita integra* (Sankarankutty, 1959), *Lissocarcinus orbicularis* (Sankarankutty and Thomas, 1963), *Neptunus (Neptunus) sanguinolentus* (Noble, 1964) and *Portunus pelagicus* (James, 1966), no information is avail-

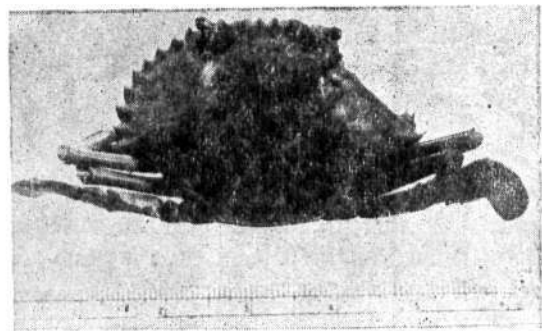


Fig. 1. Abnormal carapace of *Scylla serrata*.

able so far in the case of *Scylla serrata*. Hence the present study reports the presence of abnormalities in *Scylla serrata*.

One male specimen of carapace length 6.3 cm and width 9.0 cm showed abnormality in the number and size of the anterolateral border teeth of the carapace (Fig. 1). While the left antero-lateral border was normal with 9 teeth, the right border invaginated and armed with only 3 unequal teeth instead of the usual complement of 9 equal teeth.

Another male specimen had the abnormal right cheliped of 9.0 cm length, propodus of 5 cm length (Fig. 2). In addition to the normal thumb and movable finger, two extra thumbs which appeared just behind the original thumb. Both additional thumbs were non-functional and immovable with well developed pointed teeth along the inner margins.

The abnormalities noted in the present case

may be attributed to some injury or mechanical disturbances or congenital.

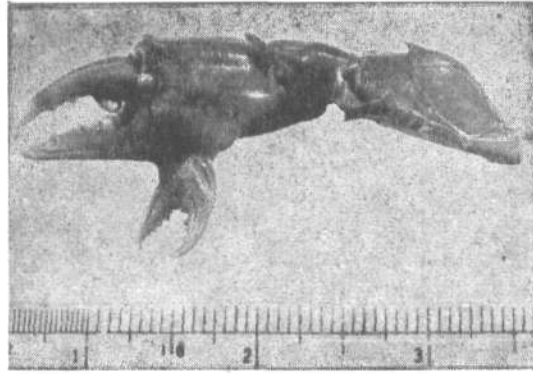


Fig. 2. Abnormal right cheliped of *Scylla serrata*.

Thanks are due to Dr. K. Krishnamurthy, Director for facilities and to C. S. I. R., New Delhi, for awarding Senior Research Fellowship to T. Krishnan.

Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology,
Annamalai University,
Parangipettai - 608 502.

T. KRISHNAN
T. KANNUPANDI

REFERENCES

JAMES, P. S. B. R. 1966. *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, **8**: 218 - 220.

NOBLE, A. 1964. *Ibid.*, **6**: 312 - 313.

SANKARANKUTTY, C. 1959. *Ibid.*, **1**: 254.

——— AND P. T. THOMAS 1963. *Ibid.*, **5**: 144-145.