surface with two carinae. Endopod with a single dorsal carina, its outer border with five teeth, fifth tooth large and placed slightly away from the tip.

Total length 14.0 mm., length of carapace 6.0 mm.

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A RECORD OF *PANULIRUS PENICILLATUS* (OLIVIER) FROM THE INSHORE WATERS OFF QUILON (KERALA)*

Panulirus dasypus Latreille (Gravely 1927), *P. ornatus* Fabricius (Rai 1933 ; Chopra 1939 & 1943) and *P. polyphagus* Herbert (Chopra 1939 & 1943) and *P. burgeri* de Haan are the common species of lobsters recorded from the catches of the Indian coasts. In addition *P. versicolor* Latreille is not altogether uncommon along the Kerala coast. Alcock in 1901 described *P. angulatus* and indicated its availability in the Gulf of Mannar. This species is probably synonymous with *Peurulus sewelli* referred to in the scientific reports of the John Murray Expedition (Ramadan 1938). During the recent lobster gear investigations conducted from this Station with specially designed bottom-set gill nets along the south-west coast of India, in one net operated off Tangassery point (Quilon), a single large sized lobster, which is distinctly different from all others obtained at this place as well as from other fishing centres namely Varkala, Vizhinjam and Colachel-Muttam, was caught. On identification, it has been found to be *Panulirus penicillatus* (Olivier). So far the availability of this species and its occurrence along the Indian coasts have not been indicated in any of the published records.

The present note embodies a short description of the specimen collected at Quilon. According to the accounts of Barnard (1950), Sheard (1941) and especially de Man (1916), the general distribution of this species is throughout the whole of the Indo-Pacific from Gulf of Akaba to Fusan (Korea), Hawain and Gambier Islands, New Hebrides, East Indies, North coast of Australia, Pacific Islands and Red Sea.

Topography of the place of capture :—One unit of bottom set gill nets of length 250 meshes, depth 10 meshes and 6″ mesh made of nylon was set in the evening of 19-1-1960 at a place situated ½ a mile off Tangassery point (8° 53-54′ N Latitude and 76° 34′ E Longitude). The depth of water was between 3 and 3½ fathoms and bottom was sandy with patches of laterite rocks, covered predominantly with a weedy vegetation. A second unit of net was laid parallel about 100 yards away in depth between

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2½ and 3 fathoms. The weather was fair and sea calm with feeble currents. The nets remained overnight and they were hauled next morning. The first net unit was fully loaded with weeds and in addition to the specimens of *P. penicillatus* had as catch two perches, five small rays and one medium sized turtle. The second net unit recorded a catch of 22 lobsters (all *P. burgeri*) without any fish.

Brief description of the specimen :—The abdominal segments have transverse uninterrupted grooves and antennular segment has four conspicuous spines, each of the posterior spine being united at the base to its corresponding anterior spine (in conformity with the key of Barnard, *op. cit.*). The specimen is bluish green dorsally with light patches of different colours, and yellowish green ventrally with yellow spots, while all the legs have striking yellow longitudinal wavy lines on a light blue background. True to the popular name given to this species as ' Variegated cray fish ' the lobster looks as if brushed with a variety of different hues and colours by an expert artist.

The total length from antennular margin of carapace to posterior end of telson is 323 mm. while the length of carapace from anterior margin to its posterior end is 142 mm. The specimen is a female and weighed 1.13 kg.

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