

podite) extending further as the thumb, and the movable finger (dactylus) hinged to the palm to form a claw with the thumb. In the left chela also the finger is normal but there are two additional thumbs as seen in Photographs 1 and 2. The inner one of the three appears to be the original thumb, since the ridge that is present ventrally in the palm (Photograph 2) extends uninterruptedly into this. The outer two are extras fixed firmly to the inner one slightly ahead of the hinge of the finger. These two also have a ventral ridge (Photograph 2) continuing from one to the other, but not connected to the ridge of the palm and the thumb. Because of this extra attachment the original thumb is bent and the middle one comes in straight line with the palm. The finger and the middle one form the claw.

All these thumbs are well developed with the full compliments of teeth, and this abnormality appears to be congenital.

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**ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *METAPENAEUS BURKENROADI* KUBO
(FAMILY : PENAEIDAE, CRUSTACEA DECAPODA) IN INDIAN WATERS**

The genus *Metapenaeus* is widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific. The species comprising the genus appear to be highly confused and several closely allied species have been recorded in different groups like '*mastersii*' group, '*affinis*' group and '*monoceros*' group. *Metapenaeus burkenroadi* is one of the species included in the '*mastersii*' group. Kubo (1949) described it extensively under the name of *M. affinis* and later (1954) separated it to a new species giving the name *M. burkenroadi* based on specimens collected from Japanese waters. Racek (1957) supplemented these observations making use of 2 male and 2 female specimens from Japanese waters, giving comparisons with the other members of the '*mastersii*' group, namely *M. mastersii* (Haswell) and *M. chili* Racek. The present observation of the occurrence of the species from the S.W. coast of India is the next record of the species and the first ever from outside Japanese waters. Hall (1961) synonymised the species with *M. mastersii*. However, Racek (personal communication) is not inclined to agree with him and is of opinion that *M. mastersii* is an endemic species restricted to Australia.

***Metapenaeus burkenroadi* Kubo**

Metapenaeus burkenroadi Kubo 1954 : 92-93 (with synonymy except de Man 1911)

Metapenaeus burkenroadi Racek 1957 : 6-7.

Metapenaeus mastersii Hall 1961 : 85.

Material: 1 male specimen,* 61 mm.

Locality: S.W. coast of India off Alleppey, Lat. 9°30' N. and Long. 76° 15'E. 7 fathoms.

* Since communicating this note, 2 females, 64 mm. and 51 mm. were also obtained from Cochin backwaters.

The specimen on hand quite agrees with the descriptions and figures given by Kubo (1954) and Racek (1957). The rostrum in the male specimen extends slightly less than the tip of the antennular peduncle. Distance between the anterior 3 rostral teeth more or less equal. Mid dorsal carination of the 4th abdominal somite begins from the middle of the segment. Distomedian projections of petasma diverging, laminose and almost as wide apically as at base (Fig. 1).



FIG. 1. *Metapenaeus burkenroadi*, Distal end of petasma. a. ventral view ; b. dorsal view.

Distribution : Recorded previously from Japanese waters only. This is the first record of the species from Indian waters, indicating a wider distribution of the species in the Indo-Pacific.

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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *LAPUTA CINGALENSIS* FRASER-BRUNNER, IN INDIAN WATERS

On 25th January 1961, a specimen of *Laputa cingalensis* Fraser-Brunner was collected from the trawl catches made in 37 fathoms (Lat. 12°42'N. Long. 74° 32'E.) off Mangalore. Another was obtained from the 40-44 fathom area on 29-1-61. Subsequently four more specimens were collected from the trawl catches on the Bassas De Pedro (Pedro Bank) on 27th February 1961. At all these places the bottom was rocky.