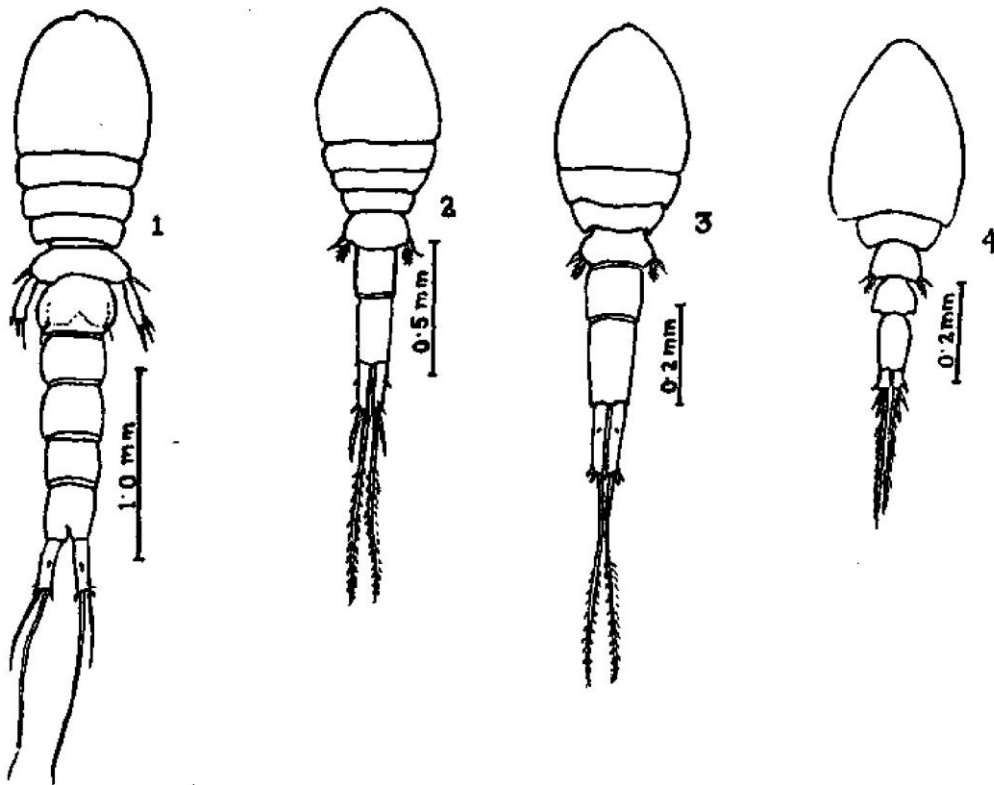


NEW RECORD OF THE CYCLOPOID COPEPOD *HERSILIODES*  
*LATERICIA* (GRUBE) FROM THE INDIAN WATERS

*Hersilodes latericia* (Grube) (= *H. pelseneeri* Canu) has so far been recorded only from the English Channel, the Atlantic Coast of France and the Mediterranean. Bocquet *et al.* (1963) have given a detailed description of the species with illustrations of the male, but till then the only available paper on the male was that by Perez (1905) which, however, had neither figures nor detailed descriptions.

From the inshore waters of the Kerala Coast, the author collected one male and several copepodites of this species during July-September 1956. The present note is to record the occurrence of the species and the copepodites obtained from the Indian waters.

The adult male (Fig. 1) is exactly like that described by Bocquet *et al.* (1963) except for the fact that a rudimentary sixth leg is present, formed by a pair of flaps with a spine each on the ventral side of the second urosome segment.



FIGS. 1-3. *Hersilodes latericia* (Grube).

1—Adult male, 2—Copepodite III, 3—Copepodite II, 4—Copepodite I.

The copepodites collected belong to three size groups, possessing the usual variations in structure, found in developmental stages. The second of the series

is similar to copepodite II of *H. pelseneeri* described by Canu (1888). The first and third can clearly be considered as copepodites I and III of the same.

Length of adult male	—	3.0 mm. (Fig. 1)
Copepodite III	—	1.5 mm. (Fig. 2)
Copepodite II	—	0.9-1.0 mm. (Fig. 3)
Copepodite I	—	0.6-0.7 mm. (Fig. 4)

Copepodite I is a *Saphirella*-like form. The validity of *Saphirella* as a genus has long been under dispute. It may not be wrong to conclude that *Saphirella* represents larvae of *Hemicyclops*, *Hersiliodes* and probably *Giardella*, three very closely related genera.

Detailed figures and descriptions of the adult and copepodites will be published later.

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#### ON THE CATCH OF A JUVENILE WHALE SHARK *RHINCODON TYPUS* SMITH FROM MALABAR COAST

ON THE 27th February 1963 a juvenile whale shark *Rhincodon typus* Smith was caught in a boat seine 'Paithu vala' operating in 12 fathom water off Cannanore coast. This shark, noted for its timidity and gentleness, did not make any attempt to struggle free from its captors and died soon, probably due to exhaustion or shock. It was towed to Thayyil landing centre where we had occasion to examine it.

TABLE I

Measurements of *Rhincodon typus* Smith in metres

Length from tip of snout to upper caudal lobe	..	4.65
-do- lower -do-	..	4.48
-do- origin of caudal fin	..	4.19
-do- -do- Ist dorsal	..	2.38
-do- -do- IInd dorsal	..	3.15
-do- -do- pectoral	..	1.24
-do- -do- pelvic	..	2.51
-do- -do- anal	..	3.00
Body depth at Ist dorsal	..	0.86
-do- IInd dorsal	..	0.43
-do- caudal peduncle	..	0.20
Length of pectoral fin	..	0.36
-do- pelvic fin	..	0.23
-do- Ist dorsal fin	..	0.48
-do- IInd dorsal fin	..	0.23
Width of the mouth	..	0.52

The estimated weight of the shark was about 14 Quintals.