

PART III

NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

NOTES

RECORD OF CESTODE PARASITES FROM PENAEID PRAWNS OF RATNAGIRI

Studies on the cestode parasites of commercially important prawns are few. So far only four species of larval cestodes have been recorded from penaeid prawns of Florida (Woodburn *et al*, 1957, Sparks and Mackin, 1957, Hutton *et al*, 1959 and Kruse, 1959) So far there are no records of larval cestodes from prawns of India. For the first time the authors have been able to collect six forms of larval cestodes from penaeid prawns of Ratnagiri.

Four species of penaeid prawns viz., *Parapenaeopsis stylifera*, *Metapenaeus affinis*, *M. dobsoni* and *Penaeus merguensis* were examined during the present study. The larval cestodes were mainly collected from the cephalic region of all the four species. The stomach, alimentary canal and other parts were not infected. Heavy infection was noticed in *P. stylifera*, a single specimen yielding as many as 30 to 35 cestodes. Magnitude of infection was comparatively less in other three species of penaeid prawns. In all about 150 larval cestodes were collected from about 30 specimens of the aforesaid four species.

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A preliminary examination of these larval forms of cestodes revealed that they belong to *Trypanorhynchid* group and at least two genera, *Tetrarhynchus* and *Nybelinia* are represented. A detailed systematic account of these parasites is being prepared. It is felt that this note will furnish additional information on the possible biological infections affecting the quality of prawns supplied in processing units.

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