

Short Communication

Report on the occurrence of *Octolasmis angulata* (Aurivillius, 1894) in *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from Pulicat Lake, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu, India

J. Praveenraj, A. Uma* and A. Gopalakannan

Department of Aquatic Animal Health Management

Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri-60120

Barnacle of the genus *Octolasmis* are commonly called goose-neck barnacle and are frequently found in infesting corals, echinoderms, molluscs, horseshoe crabs, lobsters, isopods, sea-snakes, stomatopods (Jeffries and Voris, 1996). They are found in shallow waters attached to the exoskeleton of the decapod crustacea, including crabs and few are found in depth greater than 1000 meters (Foster, 1987). A number of *Octolasmis* species live in the gill chambers of their hosts cemented to the gill lamellae rendering the space available for respiration leading to the death of the host (Gannonand Wheatly, 1992). During a visit to Pazhaverkadu fish landing center located near Pulicat Lake, Tiruvallur district, a single individual of *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) was encountered. Examination of the species based on the literature by Ihwan

et al. (2014), revealed to be *Octolasmis angulata* due to the absence of tergum and carina. Till date, there is no report of *Octolasmis* sp. infesting crabs from Pulicat region of Pazhaverkadu, though there is a report of *Octolasmis angulata* from Pulicat Lake recorded by Sanjeeva Raj (2006). The individual of *O. Angulata* was found attached to both the cheliped, posterior region of the carapace, carpus and near the eye. About 15–20 individuals were found cemented to the posterior region and about 4 nos. were found occupying the space between the eyes (Image 1 A&B). Dissection of the host revealed that there was thinning of body muscle, which was indicated by very thin muscle fibers and lean muscle mass. It is reported that infestation of *Octolasmis*

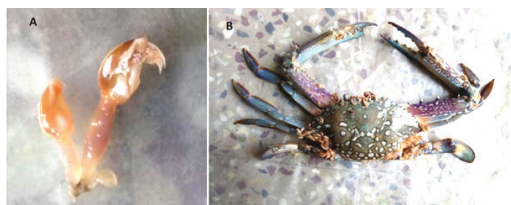


Image 1. **A.** *Octolasmis angulata* (Aurivillius, 1894) **B.** *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) infested with *Octolasmis angulata*. Ghani. R.A, Khattak NA, Saqlain M, Asad MJ, Khanum A, Naqui SMS and Raja GK

Authors

1. Ph.D Student, Department of Aquatic Animal Health Management, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri-601204
2. Professor and Head, Department of Aquatic Animal Health Management, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri-601204
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Aquatic Animal Health Management, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri-601204

*Corresponding author Email: uma@tnfu.ac.in

sp. in the gills leads to suffocation and mortality, but in the present study thinning of body muscles were observed. *Octolasmis* infestation is a problem in mud crab and blue crab culture in the most Asian country like Thailand, Vietnam, and Philippines (Shelley and Lovatelli 2011). A further work on the effect of *Octolasmis* sp., and the correlation of its infestation with the thinning of muscle mass and histopathological changes must be studied.

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