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ON THE TEREDINID BORERS OF MANGROVES OF CAMORTA  
ISLAND, NICOBAR, INDIA

Considerable damage is caused to marine installations and timbers by teredinid borers (Teredinidae : Bivalvia : Mollusca) and have been investigated in detail from different coastal waters of the Indian mainland (see Turner, 1966 a & b ; Subba Rao, 1968 ; Nair and Saraswati, 1971 ; Purushotham and Satyanarayana Rao, 1971 ; Nair and Dharmaraj, 1980) as well as Andaman Islands (see Karande, 1978 ; Das and Dev Roy, 1980 ; Tiwari *et al*, 1980). Studies on this group of wood borers are very much essential in order to have an understanding of their incidence and activity in different aquatic biotypes particularly in view of our increasing mariculture necessitating installation of numerous wooden structures. Moreover it has also been found that each geographical location is having its own set of dominant borers and assemblage of less important ones (Nair, 1968 ; Nair and Dharmaraj, 1979). So, teredinids of Nicobar waters need special attention as barring two reports on the occurrence of *Nausitora dunlopei* Wright (Rajagopal and Daniel, 1972 ; Tiwari *et al*, *op. cit.*) no information on this group from Nicobar Islands are available till date. The said species has been recorded from Galathea river, Great Nicobar and mangrove zones of Car Nicobar, the southernmost and northernmost Islands of the Nicobar group respectively.

During the course of a recent survey three species of teredinid borers, namely, *Bactronophorus thoracites* (Gould), *Dicyathifer manni* (Wright), *Lyrodus pedicellatus* (Quatrefages) have been collected from the mangrove areas of Camorta Island, Nicobar lying between 08°03'-08°15'N and 93°27'-93°34' E. Thus all these three species constitute the first record from Nicobar waters.

Family TEREDINIDAE

***Bactronophorus thoracites* (Gould)**

*Material* : 5 exs., Camorta Is., coll. M. Sil ; 6. VIII. 80 & 8. VIII. 80.

*Remarks* : Among the teredinid borers collected in camorta island this species was found to be most dominant attacking the dried up stems of the mangrove, *Rhizophora apiculata*. It is one of the longest borer and the maximum length of our collected materials from this island was 50 cm.

*Distribution* : In India this species has so far been reported from Sundarbans, Mahanadi estuary, Visakhapatnam, Vellar-colerom estuary (Porto Novo), Bombay and South Andaman. For detailed distribution outside India see Das and Dev Roy (*op. cit.*).

***Dicyathifer manni* (Wright)**

*Material* : 2 exs., Camorta Is ; coll. M. Sil ; 8. VIII. 80.

*Remarks* : This species was found to infest dead stumps and stilt roots of the mangrove. Our collected materials are 8 cm. and 9.5 cm. in length.

*Distribution* : This species is having world-wide distribution in tropical and temperate seas. In India it has been reported from Sundarbans, Mahanadi estuary, Visakhapatnam, Madras harbour, Pulicat Lake, Cochin, Bombay, South and Middle Andamans.

#### *Lyrodus pedicellatus* (Quatrefages)

*Material* : 2 exs., Camorta Is ; coll. M. Sil ; 8. VIII. 80.

*Remarks* : It has also been found to attack the dead stumps and stilt roots of the mangrove. Length of the specimens examined 9 cm and 10.2 cm.

*Distribution* : World-wide in tropical and temperate seas. In India this species has been recorded from Mahanadi estuary, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Pamban, Tondi and Adirampatnam, Tuticorin, Kayamkulam, Cochin, Mangalore, Karwar, Panaji, Ratnagiri, Bombay, Daman, Veraval, Okha, Kandla and South Andaman.

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