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Note on the genus *Neoxanthias* Ward, 1933, and Description of *Neoxanthias michelae* (Serene and Vadon, 1981) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Xanthidae), off Tuticorin Coast, India

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Abstract

Neoxanthias michelae (Serene and Vadon, 1981) species have been reported new to pearl coast of India and poorly known species and presently recorded in and around, incidental by catch species, off Tuticorin coastal waters. By-catch specimen between 08º 53.6'N 78º 16'E and 08º 53.8'N 78º 32'E, water surface below the depth ranges from 305- 310 m. Further study is being essential to assessing the resource assessment of biodiversity of xanthid crab, off Tuticorin coast of India.

Key Words: *Neoxanthias michelae; Xanthidae; Tuticorin coast*

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Introduction

The genus *Neoxanthias* have been established for four species of more closely for deep water xanthids from Australia, Philippines, Taiwan and now in India viz., *Neoxanthias impressus* (Lamarck, 1818), *Neoxanthias michelae* (Serene & Vadon, 1981), *Neoxanthops lineatus* (A. Milne Edwards, 1868), *Neoxanthops quadrilobatus* (Sakai, 1939). All the species have been collected at depth of ranges from 200 to 600 m (Serene & Vadon, 1981; Ho., *et al.* 2000). *Neoxanthias michelae* have been incidental by-catch specimen and seasonal collection between 08º 53.6'N 78º 16'E and 08º 53.8'N 78º 32'E, 310 m, on 04 April 2016 at Tuticorin coast of India. Family Xanthidae was established by Guinot (1978), the exclusively the Carpiliidae, Eriphiidae, Pilumnidae, Panopeidae and Trapeziidae (Ng, 1998). No previous study in this coast, an attempt made on Tuticorin coast. Only one species, *Neoxanthias michelae* (Serene & Vadon, 1981), have been recorded from Tuticorin coast, now newly reported in Gulf of Mannar, India.

Class Crustacea
Order Decapoda
Family Xanthidae MacLeay, 1838
Genus *Neoxanthias* Ward, 1933

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Species *michelae*

Genus Neoxanthias Ward, 1933; p. 249, 1942 b; p. 91; Tweedie, 1950 b; p.117, Serene, 1968; p. 76; Takeda, 1972; p. 17; Sakai, 1976; p. 431

Neoxanthias michelae Serène & Vadon, 1981: 133, figure 2e-f, pl. 3D.

Serène, 1984: 200

Ho., *et al*. 2000; 120, figure 1D

Type locality

Off Pearl coast of India, Gulf of Mannar, between 08º 53.6'N 78º 16'E and 08º 53.8'N 78º 32'E, depth range from 305 to 310m.

Distribution

Philippines, Taiwan; Lubang Island- Philippines (Serène & Vadon, 1981); and Tuticorin coast and it extend to southeast coast of India.

Colour

The carapace and pereiopods (Figure 1, 1A) it presents light reddish in colour, the whole carapace (region of frontal, epigastric, proto-gastric, mesogastric, meta-gastric, cardiac, uro gastric, cervical, branchial, chelipeds) ambulatory legs dark reddish in colour.

Diagnosis

The regions of the carapace are composed of areolas, either projecting and smooth or with irregular crests giving their surfaces an eroded aspect, or noticeably subdivided (some at least) into numerous small lobes; in all cases the four teeth on the antero-lateral margins are blunt and rounded or are slightly projecting lobes. Neoxanthias michelae the arrangement of the carapace regions: in particular is distinct and separated from the divided into two lobules; 1 M and 2 M are totally separated; 6 L is divided into 2; entire regions have been smooth, without depressions. The supero-external face of the carpus and palms of the chelipeds is entirely lobate. The ambulatory legs are thin.

Remarks

Neoxanthias michelae Serène & Vadon, 1981 have been described this specimen, it has been reported as earlier record (Serene & Vadon, 1981; Ho., *et al*. 2000) from Tan-Shui, Taipei, now, and deep sea by-catch species and quiet normally agree with specimen the specimen have been collected from the first time, off Tuticorin coast and new record for Indian Ocean (Figure 1, 1A).

Figure 1: *Neoxanthias michelae Serène & Vadon, 1981 Dorsal View.*

Figure 1A: *Neoxanthias michelae Serène & Vadon, 1981 Ventral View.*

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