

**A NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SCOLECITHRICELLA TROPICA*
GRICE (CALANOIDA:SCOLECITHRICIDAE) IN THE INDIAN OCEAN--
A NEW RECORD**

ABSTRACT

Scolecithricella tropica Grice is reported for the first time from the Indian Ocean. The similarities between the two species *Scolecithricella tropica* and *Scolecithricella beata* are obvious enough to consider them synonymous, hence the specimens recorded here are assigned to the former species which was described first.

Grice (1962) described the species *Scolecithricella tropica* in his account of the Calanoid copepods from the equatorial water of the Pacific Ocean. During the study of copepods from the Indian Ocean, one female specimen from station Ka. II, position 04°57'S, 77°59'E and four female specimens from station Um. 6312, position 21°04'S, 112°50'E (IOBC 1969), collected during the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) were identified as *Scolecithricella tropica* and these are reported here as the first record of this species from the Indian Ocean.

As described by Grice, these specimens can easily be identified from the structure of the posterior thoracic margin and the fifth pair of feet. There is a notch on the posterior thoracic margin just anterior to the apex (Fig. 1 A, B.) The fifth pair of feet show variations in a few specimens. In some the feet are symmetrical by having two approximately equal terminal spines (Fig. 1 E) Whereas in a few they are asymmetrical with 3 terminal spines on one side and 2

on the other (Fig. 1 F). Average length of the specimen is 1.2 mm.

Tanaka (1962) described the species *Scolecithricella beata* from the Sagami Bay (Izu Region), Middle Japan. On comparing the published descriptions of *Scolecithricella tropica* and *Scolecithricella beata* with those of the present species, a good agreement can be seen between these two and the specimens from the Indian Ocean reported here. The few differences observed are the following.

In the first maxilla (Fig. 1. C.) Grice has shown 8 setae on the first inner lobe, Tanaka has mentioned 11 setae and the specimens recorded here also have 11 setae. The third inner lobe of the same appendage in the specimens from the equatorial water of the Pacific has 3 setae, so also the Indian Ocean specimens, whereas Tanaka has mentioned only 1 seta. On the endopod of the second maxilla (Fig. 1 D) the IIOE specimens have 5 sensory and 3 worm-like appendages as described by Grice. Tanaka has mentioned only about worm-like appendages.

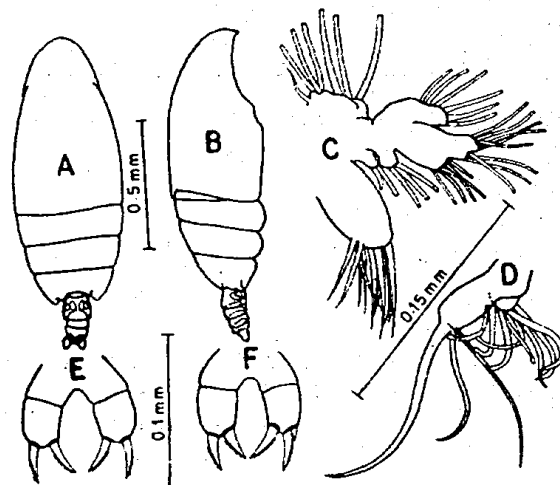


Fig. 1 *Scolecithricella tropica* Grice, 1962, ♀ (A) dorsal view (B) lateral view (C) first maxilla (D) terminal part of second maxilla (E) fifth pair of feet (F) fifth pair of feet, abnormal.

The similarities between the two species *Scolecithricella tropica* and *Scolecithricella beata* are obvious enough to consider them synonymous and so, the specimens recorded here have been identified as *Scolecithricella tropica*

Grice, which was first described from the Pacific.

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