Mahasagar-Bulletin of the National Institute of
Oceanography, *14*(3), 1981, 203-205.

A NEW RECORD OF *NAUSITORA DUNLOPEI* WRIGHT (MOLLUSCA-TEREDINIDAE) FROM THE WEST COAST OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Two specimens of *Nausitora dunlopei* have been collected from the Cochin Harbour region and described. This is a new record of the species from the west coast of India.

From the south west coast of India 8 species of shipworms have so far been recorded (Nair and Saraswathy, 1971). They are *Dicyathifer manni, Teredora princesae, Teredo furcifera, T. clappi, Lyrodus pedicellatus, Nausitora hedleyi, Bankia companellata* and *B. carinata*.

While conducting studies on the seasonal intensity of teredinids in the Cochin Harbour region, two specimens of *Nausitora dunlopei* Wright (1864), one young and other adult, were obtained from the jetty of the Department of Marine Sciences, situated on the eastern side of the Ernakulam shipping channel. This is the first report on the occurrence of *N. dunlopei* from the west coast of India, having the following synonyms.

Nausitora dunlopei Wright, 1864, p. 453.
Calobates fluviatilis Hedley, 1898, p. 93.
Bankia (Nausitora) smithi Bartsch, 1927, p. 61.
Bankia globosa Sivickis, 1928, p. 288.
Bankia quadrangularis Sivickis, 1928, p. 287.
Nausitora messeli Iredale, 1932, p. 37.
Nausitora madagassica Roch, 1935, p. 271.
Nausitora schneideri Moll, 1935, p. 271.
Bankia pennanseris Roch, 1935, p. 274.
Nausitora queenslandica Iredale, 1936, p. 37.
Bankia (Nausitora) madrasensis Nair, 1954, p. 399.
Nausitora lanceolata Rajgopal, 1964, p. 109.
Nausitora dunlopei Wright
Turner, 1966.

The adult specimen was collected from a test panel immersed in August 1975 and examined in November, 1975, after a period of four months. The salinity during the above period varied from 3.92‰ to 19.98‰. The young specimen was obtained in October 1975 from a test panel exposed for a month. The salinity during the above month ranged between 5.72‰ and 10.56‰. The diagnostic features of the adult specimen are given below.

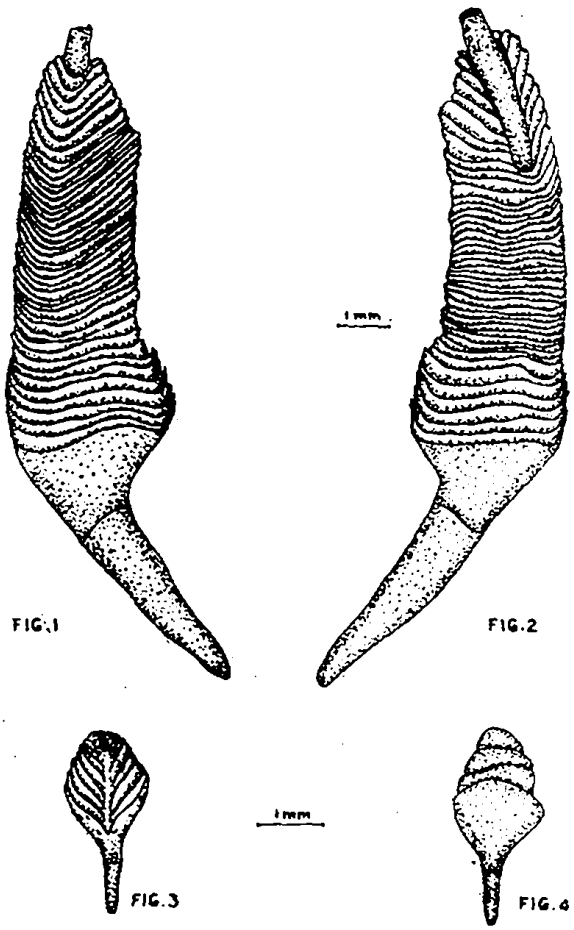

Fig. 1 & 2. Pallet of adult specimen of *Nausitora dunlopei*
Fig. 1–Outer face of the pallet.
Fig. 2–Inner face of the pallet
Fig. 3 & 4. Pallet of the young specimen of *Nausitora dunlopei*
Fig. 3–Outer face of the pallet.
Fig. 4–Inner face of the pallet.

The pallet blade is elongate and composed of distinct segments which are closely packed and fused with a central cylindrical stalk. The stalk protrudes beyond the tip of the blade due to the loss of early segments. On the outer convex side, the striations are transverse proximally, but distally they curve towards the tip of the blade on either side (Fig. 1). On the inner side of the blade, the striations are transverse and the central stalk is clearly visible in the distal one third part (Fig. 2). On the basal portion of the blade periostracal covering is seen extending as awns.

The specimen measured 115 mm; pallet 12 mm with blade 8 mm and stalk 4 mm.

The characters of the present specimen compares well with that of Wright (1864).

In the young specimen the pallet blade is broadly oval shaped. On its outer convex face, the striations are seen branching from a median line and curving towards the tip of the blade (Fig. 3). The cylindrical stalk protrudes out through the distal depression. On the inner face of the pallet, the striations are more or less transverse (Fig. 4). The basal part of the pallet has a thin periostracal covering.

The specimen measured 21 mm; pallet 2.76 mm with blade 2.16 mm and stalk 0.60 mm.

The characters of the present specimen show close similarity to that of *Bankia pennanseris* Roch (1935) and *B. madrasensis* Nair (1954). both of which have later been identified as young *Nausitora dunlopei* by Turner (1966).

N. dunlopei has been reported earlier from West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Madras Coast, in India and also from Madagasker, Australia, Fiji islands, Philippine islands, Siam, Hawaiian islands and Bismarks archepelago.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Dr. P. V. Cheriyan, Research Officer, W. P Centre (Marine), Department of Marine Sciences, Cochin–16, under whose guidance the work was carried out, to Dr. G. S. Sharma, Professor and Head of the Department and to Dr. C. V. Kurian, former Professor and Head for encouragements. His thanks are also due to Dr. R.D. Turner, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Massachusetts for her help in the identification, to the University of Cochin for the facilities provided and to the U. G. C. authorities for granting him a fellowship.

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