LYRODUS MEDILOBATA (EDMONDSON)  
(MOLLUSCA : TERedinidae)  
— A NEW RECORD FROM INDIAN WATERS.

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ABSTRACT

The wood-boring mollusc, Lyrodus medilobata (Edmondson), has been recorded for the first time from Indian waters, based on five pallets extracted from a fishing float at Verval in Gujarat coast. Synonyms, diagnostic characters and distribution of this species are also included.

Key-words: Wood-borers, mollusc, Lyrodus medilobata, Teredinidae.

Thirty-four species, belonging to twelve genera of marine wood-borers of the family Teredinidae, have so far been recorded from Indian waters (Santhakumar and Jain, 1983; Santhakumar and Srinivasan, 1985; Nair, 1984). These include seven species of Bankia [B. bipalmulata (Lamarck), B. bipennata (Turton), B. campanellata Moll and Roch, B. carinata (Gray), B. fimbrilita Moll and Roch, B. nordi Moll and B. rochi Moll]; three species each of Lyrodus [L. affinis (Deshayes), L. massa (Lamy) and L. pedicellatus (Quatrefages)] and Teredothea [T. excavata (Jeffreys), T. matocotana (Bartsch) and T. smithi (Bartsch)]; four species of Nausitora [N. dunlopei Wright, N. justicula (Jeffreys), N. hedleyi Schepman and N. oahuensis (Edmondson)]; two species each of Nototeredo [N. edax (Hedley) and N. knoxi (Bartsch)]; Teredora [T. paluensis (Edmondson) and T. princesae (Sivickis)] and Uperotus [U. clavus (Gmelin) and U. rehderi (Nair)]; Seven species of Teredo (T. aegypos Moll, T. bartschi Clapp, T. clappi Bartsch, T. fullerii Clapp, T. furcifera von Martens, T. somersi Clapp and T. triangularis Edmondson); and one species each of Bactronophorus [B. thoracites (Gould)], Dicyathifer [D. mannii (Wright)], Nototeredo [N. reynei (?) (Bartsch) and Spathoterado [S. obtusa (Sivickis)].

According to Prof. Ruth D. Turner (personal communication), there are “species pairs” among the brooders in Teredinidae which cannot be distinguished except when there are larvae in the gills. In view of this, Teredo parksii Bartsch, Teredo indomalaiica Roch and Lyrodus singaporenus Roch, earlier synonymised under Teredo furcifera, Teredo fulleri and Lyrodus massa respectively, are valid species. Thus, the actual number of shipworm species

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occurring along the Indian coasts, offshore waters and along the adjacent islands in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea is thirty seven.

While re-examining the shipworm pallets collected on 18-12-1972 from Veraval (Lat. 20°54'N and Long. 70°22'E) in Gujarat coast, the author came across 5 pallets of *Lyrodus medilobata* (Edmondson). This being the first record of this species from Indian waters, its synonyms, diagnostic features and distribution are presented in this communication. Classification of Turner (1966) has been followed in the treatment of the species.

*Lyrodus medilobata* (Edmondson)

1942 *Teredo* (*Corteteredo*) *medilobata* Edmondson p. 119.
1971 *Lyrodus medilobatus* Turner p. 32.

**Diagnosis**

Distal half of blade composed of a brown to nearly black periostracal cap which overlaps the calcareous portion; calcareous base of blade conical distally; periostracal cap more or less straight-sided and its outer distal margin nearly straight but inner distal margin deeply U-shaped with a median lobate process.

**Material examined**

Five pallets extracted from a fishing float from Veraval. Total length of the largest pallet is 1.75 mm, with the stalk measuring 0.68 mm.

**Distribution**

*L. medilobata* is widely distributed in the tropic and sub-tropic region of Indo-Pacific. According to Prof. Ruth D. Turner (personal communication), this species has been earlier collected from Hawaiian Islands, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Australia in the Indo-Pacific and from Virgin Islands and Bermuda in the Atlantic.

**Remarks**

The structure of the pallets closely resembles with the original description given by Edmondson (1942). A unique feature of this shipworm is its small size. *L. medilobata* can be easily distinguished from other teredinids by the presence of the median lobe on the concave inner distal border of the pallet blade. The lobate process, which is either rounded or truncate in the present material (Fig. 1), is actually a development of the periostracum and not of the calcareous portion of the pallet.

Two other species of shipworms, namely *Bankia campanellata* Moll and Roch and *Lyrodus pedicellatus* (Quatrefages), were also present in the wood from which pallets of *L. medilobata* were collected. With the record of *L. medilcbata*, the number of teredinid species, occurring in Indian waters, increases to 38.
Fig. 1. Pallets of *Lyrodus mediolobata* (x 45)  
A: Outer face. B: Inner face

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Prof. Ruth D. Turner, Harvard University, U.S.A. for confirming the identification. His thanks are also due to Mr. S. N. Sharma, Forest Research Laboratory, Bangalore, and to Drs. H. N. Siddiquie and T. S. S. Rao, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, for encouragement.

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