

*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 Veraval 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 (Santhakumaran and Jain, 1983; Santhakumaran, Udaya Bhaskar 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. fimbrifluta* 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 *Teredothyra* [*T. excavata* (Jeffrays), *T. matocotana* (Bartsch) and *T. smithi* (Bartsch)], four species of *Nausitora* [*N. dunlopei* Wright, *N. fusticula* (Jeffreys), *N. hedleyi* Schepman and *N. oahuensis* (Edmondson)]; two species each of *Nototeredo* [*N. edax* (Hedley) and *N. knoxi* (Bartsch)]; *Teredora* [*T. palauensis* (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. fulleri* Clapp, *T. furcifera* von Martens, *T. somersi* Clapp and *T. triangularis* Edmondson); and one species each of *Bactronophorus* [*B. thoracites* (Gould)], *Dicyathifer* [*D. manni* (Wright)], *Nototeredo* [*N. reynei* (?) (Bartsch) and *Spathoteredo* [*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 parksi* Bartsch, *Teredo indomalaiica* Roch and *Lyrodus singaporena* 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* (*Cornuteredo*) *medilobata* Edmondson p.119.

1966 *Lyrodus medilobata* Turner p.110.

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. medilobata*, the number of teredinid species, occurring in Indian waters, increases to 38.

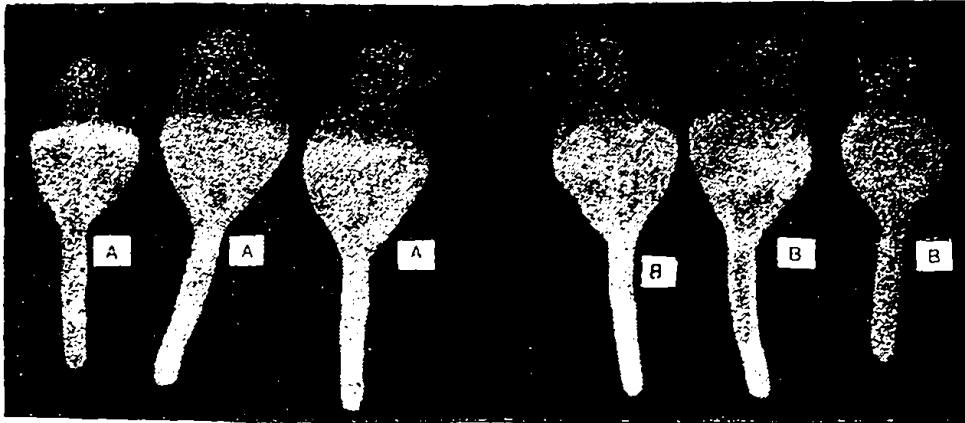


Fig. 1. Pallets of *Lyrodus medilobata* (x 45)  
A: Outer face. B: Inner face

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