

# Distribution of *Plesionika semilaevis* along the southwest coast of India

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The commercial deep-sea caridean shrimp *Plesionika martia* (A. Milne-Edwards, 1883) has long been recorded from India and constitutes an important part of catches of the deep-sea shrimp fisheries. A recent survey in some deep-sea fishing harbours along the south-west coast of India, however, revealed that all material previously reported as '*P. martia*' is actually a misidentification of its closely related species *Plesionika semilaevis* Spence Bate, 1888. The fishery was observed fortnightly during 2014-2016 from two fishing harbours (Kalamukku and Sakthikulangara) where deep sea fish landings occur to understand the *Plesionika martia* species complex using morphometric and meristic methods. The results of the present study showed the dominance of *P. semilaevis* (100%) in comparison to *P. martia*. Voucher specimen (ED.2.4.5.1) was deposited in Designated National Repository (DNR) of ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. The present study reports the new record of deep sea pandalid shrimp *Plesionika semilaevis* with morphological description.

**Description:** Rostrum extending beyond the antennal scale, dorsally armed with 7-8 teeth, including 3 on carapace posterior to level of orbital margin, armed ventrally with 35-44 teeth; abdomen without posteromesial tooth or median dorsal carina on 3<sup>rd</sup> somite, none of abdominal pleura with distinct marginal tooth or denticle, 6<sup>th</sup> somite about twice as long as maximum height; telson about as long as



Fig. 1. *Plesionika semilaevis* (male)

6<sup>th</sup> somite, with 4 pairs of dorsolateral spinules, including lateral pair of posterior spines; antennal scale is more wider; 3<sup>rd</sup> maxilliped with epipod; pereopods with epipods on 4 anterior pairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> pair sub-equal, with 20 carpal articles, 3<sup>rd</sup> pair extending beyond the antennal scale by a length of dactylus, none of pereopods are extremely slender or thread like. Total length (102 mm), carapace length (17 mm) and rostral length (37 mm) for the voucher specimen was recorded.

This species is closely related to *P. martia*. In *P. semilaevis*, anterior part of the post-rostral carina is elevated and separated from carapace, the orbital margin distinctly curved backwards. In *P. martia* anterior part of post-rostral carina is not elevated and not distinctly away from carapace, orbital margin is nearly vertical.