

have the opportunity to add further knowledge may do so.

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Occurrence of *Eutrichocheles modestus* (Herbst) in the Near-shore Waters of Porto Novo, South India

FAUNAL studies of this region on the Coromandel Coast have been in progress for some years. Some interesting finds have been reported¹⁻³ recently, after the establishment of a marine biological laboratory at Porto Novo (11° 29' N. and 79° 47' E.), and this communication relates to the occurrence of the extremely rare decapod crustacean *Eutrichocheles modestus* (Herbst) (Fig. 1). A specimen 80 mm. in length (from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior extremity of the telson) was first obtained from a seine net operated by local fishermen at about the 10-fathom line (about 4-5 miles from shore) in February 1960. This area is well within the limits of the continental shelf, which extends to about 20 miles along this coast. Another specimen measuring 75.2 mm. in length was obtained in January 1961.

From a survey of the literature it would appear that only two specimens of this decapod have so far been obtained, and the exact source of neither of these is known with certainty. The first specimen described by Herbst (1794)⁴ as *Cancer modestus* was probably taken in the East Indies, and the other specimen on which Wood-Mason (1875)⁵ based the present generic name was caught somewhere off the Arakan coast of Burma. The latter specimen seems to be the only example in existence now⁶. With the present discovery of *Eutrichocheles modestus*, de Man's statement⁷ "that this extremely rare form will probably prove to occur also in the Indian Archipelago" would appear prophetic.

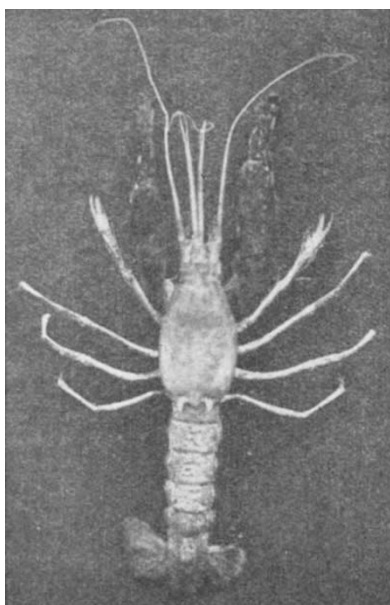


Fig. 1 *Eutrichocheles modestus* (Herbst)

The main features of the specimens from Porto Novo conform very closely to the earlier descriptions, but the following supplementary observations may be made. The fresh specimens appeared rather pink in colour and with preservation they have tended to become white. One is therefore reminded of the red pigment mentioned by Herbst⁴ and the white colour referred to by Chopra⁶. Further, the cornea appears to be pigmented unlike what Chopra observed. Again, in our specimens the rostrum ends in a rather sharply pointed tip, and with regard to the abdominal segments, the teeth at the anterior margin of the fifth are rather indistinct compared with those on the third and fourth segments. There is a median groove in the telson running from the notch at its posterior margin, to the middle, where runs a transverse row of spines. The exopod of the uropod also has hairs. This feature was described by Chopra⁶.

Unlike the Indian Museum specimen, the right cheliped and not the left is the bigger in our material and both the chelipeds are profusely covered with hair-like outgrowths. The nature and distribution of the tubercles and spines in the different regions of the chelipeds would also appear to vary from what has been described by the earlier authors.

When more specimens of this curious creature become available a detailed investigation of its anatomy will be undertaken, when it may also be possible to discuss its systematics in a more precise manner than has hitherto been possible.

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LIMNOLOGY

A Lake in British Columbia containing Old Sea-Water

STIMULATED by Strøm's reports^{1,2}, and by N. M. Carter's speculations (oral communication), we have made a preliminary examination of Powell Lake, British Columbia, and find conditions therein similar to those described by Strøm for Lakes Tokke and Botnvatn in Norway.

Powell Lake is a fjord lake about 50 km. long and 2 km. wide. The outline of the lake and the form of the mountains rising above it resemble the many fjord-like inlets along the British Columbian coast. However, the southern end of the lake (49° 53' N., 124° 32' W.) is separated from the adjacent