

## A New Record of Scyllarid Lobster *Scyllarus Batei Batei* (Holthuis, 1946) (Family: Scyllaridae: Latreille, 1852) (Crustacea: Decapoda: Scyllaridae) Off Thoothukudi Coast of Gulf of Mannar, Southeast Coast of India (08 °53.6'N 78 °16'E And 08 °53.8'N 78 °32'E) (310 M)

Vaitheeswaran T.✉

Assistant General Manager, Marine Invertebrate Division, Cancer Drugs, Department of New Drug Discovery, Rarbio Energies Private Limited, #311/2, Vellalar Street, Mel Ayanambakkam, Chennai- 600 095, Tamil Nadu, India

✉ Corresponding author email: [frs69@rediffmail.com](mailto:frs69@rediffmail.com)

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**Abstract** A new record of Scyllaridae off Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar, southeast coast of India and reported. *Scyllarus batei batei* (Holthuis, 1946) were newly recorded from Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India. Only one specimen were reported in depth of 310 mts as an incidental by-catch in the fisheries. They are found in tropical waters from about 08° 53.6'N 78° 16'E and 08° 53.8'N 78° 32'E/310 mts from Thoothukudi fishing harbour, southeast coast of India.

**Keywords** Scyllaridae; *Scyllarus batei* batei; First Record; Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar; new record

### 1 Introduction

Taxonomical studies on the Scyllarid lobsters of India are dealt with by Alcock (1901), Bate (1888), Estampador (1937), Holthuis (1946, 1960), Alcock & Anderson (1894) and Lloyd (1907). While examining the crustacean catches landed by larger trawlers, which operated in deeper waters off Thoothukudi, one species of scyllarid lobster were noticed. On closer examination, they were identified as *Scyllarus batei batei* (Holthuis, 1946) were new to Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar. The present specimen (*Scyllarus batei batei*) is recorded from Gulf of Mannar for the first time, though it has been reported earlier from southwest coast of India by George (1969).

**Superfamily: Scyllarinae, Latreille, 1852**

**Family: Scyllaridae Latreille, 1852: 278**

**Genus: *Scyllarus***

*Scyllarus batei batei* Alcock, 1901, p. 181

*Arctus orientalis* Spence Bate, 1888, p. 68.

*Arctus orientalis* Estampador, 1937, p. 495

Not *Arctus orientalis* Alcock and Anderson, 1894, p. 165;

Lloyd, 1907, p. 6.

*Scyllarus orientalis* De Man, 1916, p. 73; Ramadan, 1938, p. 126

(*Scyllarus batei arabicus* Holthuis, 1960).

George, 1969, p. 433 - 435

Holthuis, 2002, p. 520 -527

1 Material: 1 male measuring 13.2 cm total length and 15g weight (Figure 1).

2 Locality: 08° 53.6'N 78° 16'E and 08° 53.8'N 78° 32'E off Thoothukudi coast of Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India; depth at trawling 310 m.

3 Colour: Carapace pale brown or grayish brown with the tubercles red or pale purple. Abdomen light yellowish brown.

### 4 Distribution

This species has been recorded earlier from off Arabian sea, South West of Cochin off Alleppey, at 130 - 175 fathoms (George, 1966). The present record



Figure1 *Scyllarus batei batei* – Dorsal view

from Thoothukudi coast in Gulf of Mannar extends its distribution to the southeast coast of India. This characteristic species has a wide distribution in the Indo-West Pacific region extending from the east coast of Africa (Gulf of Aden to Mozambique and Madagascar) to Taiwan, the South China Sea, the Philippines and Indonesia, N Australia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu. Two syntypes of *Arctus orientalis* Bate, 1888, for which *Scyllarus batei batei* Holthuis, 1946 is a new name, are preserved in the Natural History Museum, London.

### 5 Remarks

The description given by Holthuis (1946) agree with the present specimen. *Scyllarus batei batei* (Holthuis, 1946) which are distinguished by the nature of the inflated branchial region and the transverse groove on the first abdominal somite (Figure 1). Carapace with only pregastric, gastric and cardiac teeth in the median line; rostral tooth absent. Pereiopods slender. No media tubercles on the sternum and no posterior teeth (Figure 2). The present specimen of *Scyllarus batei batei* were recorded from the Arabian Sea by Alcock and Anderson (1894).

### Author's Contribution

Vaitheeswaran Thiruvengadam have been collected and identification of specimen and took photograph of specimen and reference collection. The author are thankful to Thiru M. Kathirvel, former Principal Scientist of Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (I.C.A.R.), Chennai, for critical reading



Figure 2 *Scyllarus batei batei* – sternum

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