

A New Report of Prawn, *Macrobrachium altiforms* (Henderson) From Singhia River Biratnagar, Nepal

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Abstract

The prawn *Macrobrachium altiforms* of family Palaemonidae recorded from Singhia river Biratnagar, Nepal is described.

Keywords: Prawn, *Macrobrachium altiforms*, Morphometry

Introduction

Prawns are found in rivers, streams, canals, ponds etc. of both hills and terai. The work on prawn in Nepal is in infant stage. There exists scanty of information pertaining to taxonomy and diversity of prawn of Nepal. Several researchers have made contribution to the taxonomy and distribution of freshwater, estuarine prawns and marine shrimps from neighboring countries (Henderson and Matihari 1910, Tiwari 1947, Holthulus and Roas 1965, Yaldwyn 1966). From Nepal, eight species of genus *Macrobrachium* have been reported from Kaligandaki and Narayani river (Shrestha *et al.* 2001). Taking the above fact into consideration an effort has been made to study prawns of Biratnagar. From the collection only one species of the genus *Macrobrachium* could be identified and confirmed from available literature. The work of identification and confirmation for other species is under process.

Materials and Methods

Prawns belonging to family Palaemonidae were collected from Singhia river Biratnagar with the help of local fishermen and brought to laboratory of Zoology Department of Post

Graduate Campus, Biratnagar. They were preserved in 5% formalin for further study.

Description *M. altiforms* (Henderson)

Collection site- Singhia river Biratnagar, 6-male, 8-female, total length, male 70-75mm, female 55-63 mm.

Diagnostic features

RF-110-12/3; ant. scale pointed. Apex horizontal to very slightly upturned; convexity starts nearly from 1/3rd of length of its origin; 3-4 teeth on carapace; teeth are not erect; 1st paraepod: finger = 1/2 carpus; ischium, merus, palm and finger hairy; 2nd paraepod: unequal or equal, palm >= finger, palm broader than finger; 2-3 blunt teeth with 6 tubercle on immobile finger but in mobile fingers 3-4 unequal teeth at irregular intervals cutting edge of mobile finger with 4 tubercles. Maximum size collected 75.0 mm.

Results and Discussion

The present specimen agrees with the species described by Henderson in the morphometry but in few respects it shows some minor differences as in *M. altiforms* (Henderson) the apex of the rostrum

recorded is inclined downward or horizontal, two teeth on carapace. But in the present specimen the apex is horizontal to slightly upturned and 3-4 teeth on carapace. The average maximum size recorded by Dutta 2001, in his specimen *M. altiformis* is 47 mm but the average maximum size of species described at present is 75.0 mm. As Shrestha *et al.* (2001) only a list has been given, no comparison could be made with the present species. The differences recorded in the same two species may be due to different geographical, environmental factors, physical and chemical parameters of water body.

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