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ADDITIONS TO THE COPEPODS PARASITIC ON THE MARINE
FISHES OF INDIA

2. *KABATAELLA INDICA* GEN. ET SP. NOV. (CALIGOIDA)

By

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(With 12 Text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

During a faunistic survey of the caligid copepods parasitic on fishes inhabiting the coastal waters of Kerala, the first author collected from the nasal fossae of *Pomadasys maculatus* (Bloch) three females of a remarkable caligid. The morphology of this copepod is such that it cannot be placed in any of the known genera. We, therefore, create a new genus under the sub-family Lepeophtherinae. The genus is named after Dr. Z. Kabata as a tribute to his magnificent work on parasitic copepods.

TAXONOMIC ACCOUNT

Kabataella indica gen. et sp. nov.

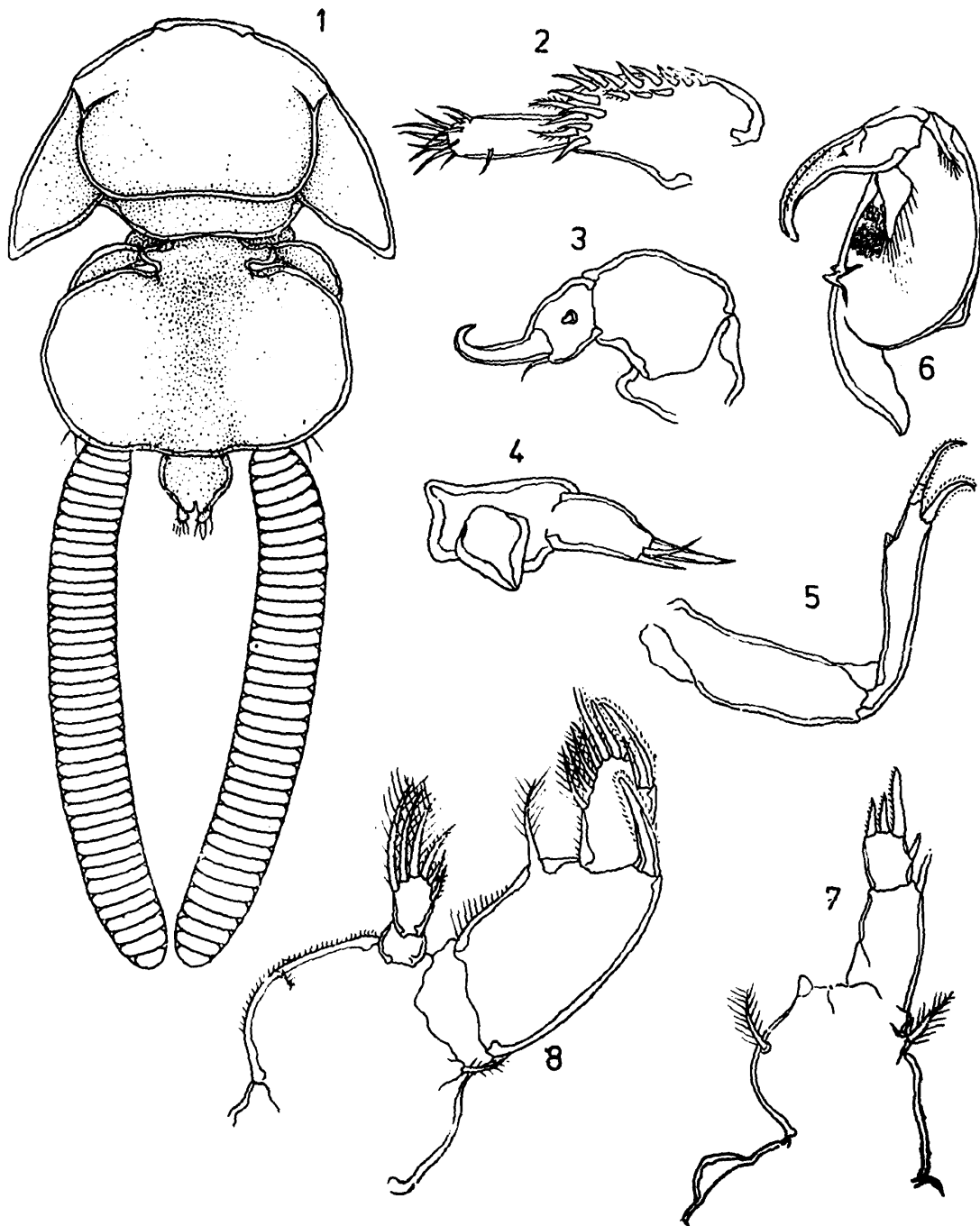
(Text-figs. 1-12)

Holotype.—Female, Reg. No. C 2902/2 Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta; Loc.: Trivandrum, Kerala; host: *Pomadasys maculatus*; nasal fossae; coll. *C. Prabha*.

Paratype.—Female kept in the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries. Other details same as for holotype.

Female.—Body demarcated into a large, roughly semicircular cephalothorax and an equally large, transversely oblong genital segment, the two connected by a fairly large fourth thoracic segment. The dorsal chitinous covering of the body comparatively hard. Cephalothorax semicircular, with irregular outline, anteriorly convex and posteriorly concave. Frontal plates absent, their position indicated by a slight expansion. Dorsal longitudinal and transverse ribs together forming a semicircular ridge shifted backwards and almost contacting the posterior sinuses. Hind border of cephalothorax trilobed, lateral lobes forming

large triangular wings directed outwards making the posterior sinuses shallow and wide open. Median lobe about twice as broad as lateral lobes and not reaching beyond them, slightly overlapping the fourth thoracic segment. Membranous flange absent from any part of the cephalothorax and its appendages. Fourth thoracic segment well developed, much broader than long and partially fused to the genital segment, produced as rounded lobes overlapping the bases of the fourth

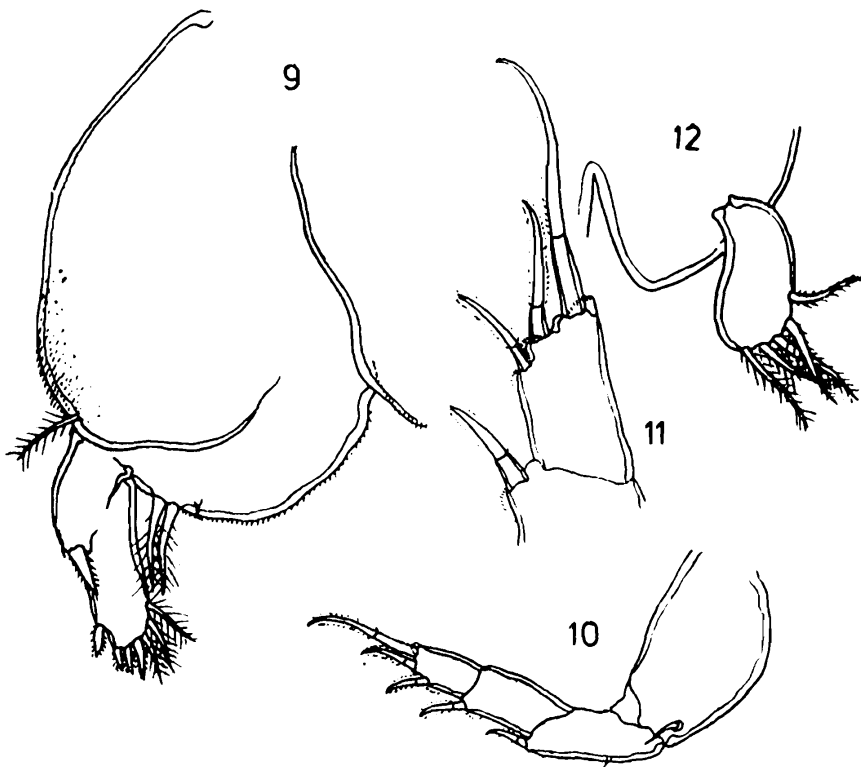


Text-figs. 1-8. *Kabataella indica* gen. et sp. nov.

1. female, dorsal view ; 2. antennule ; 3. antenna ;
 4. post-oral process and maxillule ; 5. maxilla ;
 6. maxilliped ; 7. leg. 1 ; 8. leg 2.

legs. Genital segment transversely oblong and only slightly narrower than cephalothorax, postero-medially slightly protruding and overlapping the abdomen. Abdomen one-jointed, narrowing distally and cleft behind. Caudal rami submarginal, ventral, well developed and curving inwards, each with one small and four large setae. Egg tubes stout and longer than the body.

Antennule attached to ventral side of cephalothorax, short but stout, basal segment with short stout setae, distal segment stout and cylindrical. Basal segment of antenna without the customary proximal process, second segment as long as broad, third segment proximally stout and with a blunt process and a seta, beyond the insertion of the seta the segment suddenly narrowed and curved apically. Post-antennal process absent. Post-oral process a small triangular chitinised projection.



Text-figs. 9-12. *Kabataella indica* gen. et sp. nov.

9. leg 3 ; 10. leg 4 ; 11. same, tip enlarged ;
12. caudal ramus.

Maxillule with large base, one of the setae very stout. Maxilla small, segments subequal in length, outer flange on distal segment very small, apical claws subsimilar. Maxillipeds very stout, basal segment with proximal inner bifid process, distal segment stout and strongly falcate, with a small sharp spine. Sternal fork absent.

First leg very poorly chitinised. Basipod fairly broad, with dorsal and ventral plumose setae and a small conical vestigial endopod. Exo-

pod indistinctly two-jointed, basal segment with a large upper distal spine, second segment with a dorsal spine (absent from opposite member) and three distal spines pectinate on the lower margin, spine-like seta and ventral setae absent.

Second leg stout and well chitinised, much different from the basic pattern found in caligids. Basipod with upper and lower small setae and ventral marginal row of spinules. Endopod small and two-jointed, distal segment with six plumose setae. Exopod two-jointed, basal segment stout, with large winged upper distal process, ventral border proximally spinulose and with a distal plumose seta (both absent from opposite leg), distal exopod segment with a large winged claw, a small naked spine, two modified setae and four small plumose setae.

Apron of third leg reduced in size, a trilobed lamina without membranous flange. Exopod indistinctly two-jointed, without the usual basal claw, first segment with outer distal spine, second with four small pectinate spines and three plumose setae. Endopod represented by a plumose seta on one side and two similar setae on the other. Apron armed with marginal spinules and a plumose seta above the place of insertion of the exopod.

Fourth leg normal, four-jointed, basal segment short but broad, second and third segments with one each and fourth with three claws, all the claws jointed and with pectinate flange, last claw twice as long as the penultimate. Fifth and sixth legs represented by one seta each.

Length. —5.2 mm.

Genus **Kabataella** gen. nov.

Diagnosis. —Cephalothorax semilunar, with large wing-like posterolateral lobes; frontal plates and membranous flange absent. Fourth thoracic segment normally developed. Genital segment enlarged. Abdomen small, one-jointed. Caudal rami normally developed. Antennules attached to ventral side of cephalothorax. Antennae without basal process. Post-antennal process absent. Post-oral process much reduced. Maxillule with stout base, one of the three setae very stout. Maxilla small. Maxilliped stout. Sternal fork absent. Exopod of first leg reduced in size, distal segment without ventral setae. Second leg with two-jointed rami, endopod very small. Apron of third leg reduced in size, without membranous flange, exopod two-jointed, without basal claw, endopod reduced to one or two setae. Fourth leg normal, four-jointed.

Male unknown.