



***Tachaea spongillicola* (Cymothoidea: Corallanidae) from West Bengal, India**

The isopod *Tachaea spongillicola* (Corallanidae) was described by Stebbing (1907) from the freshwater sponge *Eunapius carteri* (formerly *Spongilla carteri*) at the Indian Museum Tank, Kolkata, India. Since then, this species did not appear in literature for nearly hundred years. In 2003, Mariappan *et al.* reported this isopod from three locations along the course of the Cauvery River near Tiruchirapalli, India. They found this species to occur on three species of prawns (Table 1). However, during a recent survey at Burdwan (on 18 December 2012), the first author collected six specimens of this species (Registration Number ZSI C 6007/2) on the prawn *Macrobrachium lamarrei* from Damodar River at Kathgolaghat near Polempur (~2 km

SE of Burdwan Town). The size of the isopod specimens varied between 7.6–8.0mm and 2.6–3.5mm. The specimens (Figs. 1) were found to fully match with the description of Stebbing (1907). Thus this endemic species is here recorded after 106 years from West Bengal.



Figure 1: *Tachaea spongillicola*, dorsal view (left) and ventral view (right).

Table 1: Host species of *Tachaea spongillicola* and their distribution

Species	Host		Locality and habitat	Reference
	Group	Family		
<i>Eunapius carteri</i> (Bowerbank, 1863)	Porifera	Spongillidae	Indian Museum Tank Kolkata, India	Stebbing, 1907
<i>Macrobrachium lamarrei</i> (Edwards, 1837)	Crustacea	Palaemonidae	Cauvery River South India	Mariappan <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Macrobrachium lamarrei lamarrei</i> (Edwards, 1837)	Crustacea	Palaemonidae	Damodar River West Bengal, India	Present report
<i>Macrobrachium malcomsonii</i> (Edwards, 1844)	Crustacea	Palaemonidae	Cauvery River South India	Mariappan <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Macrobrachium nobilii</i> (Henderson & Matthai, 1910)	Crustacea	Palaemonidae	Cauvery River South India	Mariappan <i>et al.</i> , 2003

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Literature cited

Mariappan, P., C. Balasundaram, and J-P. Trilles, 2003. The infection of isopod *Tachaea spongillicola* on freshwater prawns *Macrobrachium* spp. in southern India. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, 55: 259–260.

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