

NOTES AND NEWS

REDISCOVERY OF *NEOCALLICHRUS AUDAX* (DE MAN, 1911) (DECAPODA: THALASSINIDEA) FROM PAKISTAN COAST

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Deep burrowing thalassinid shrimps also known as mud shrimp or ghost shrimp dominate soft sediment of muddy and sandy beaches. They serve their community by turning over the sediments and facilitating the nutrient influx by their burrowing. From sandy beaches of Pakistan coast four species of the family Callianassidae are known; these are *Glypturus martensi* (Miers), *Neocallichirus audax* (de Man), *N. indicus* (de Man), *Podocallichirus masoomi* (Tirmizi) (Tirmizi, 1967, 1970, 1974; Kazmi and Kazmi, 1992).



Pl. 1 *Neocallichirus audax*. A. Dorsal view; B. Lateral view

N. audax (de Man) was collected for the first time in 1892 from the Straits of Malacca, Indian Ocean and it was described for the first time in 1911. Another specimen, a male was obtained in 1966 from the sandy beach of Pasni on the Mekran coast, Pakistan (Tirmizi, 1967 as *Callianassa audax*).

Now after a period of almost four decades (30th September 2004) one more male specimen was found from the subtidal zone of sandy beach of Clifton, Karachi. It is only the second subsequent record of *Neocallichirus audax* from Pakistani coast. The present specimen is 78mm in total length and the carapace length is 23mm. It agrees well with the description and illustrations given by Tirmizi (1967) except the difference in colour. The colour of the present specimen is pink, first abdominal segment brownish, whereas the colour of the specimen reported by Tirmizi (1967) was pale yellowish with bright red chelae. Coloured photographs of the present specimen (A) dorsal and (B) lateral view are given in Pl. 1.

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