

Landings of *Penaeus vannamei* at Kalamukku Fish landing Centre, Kerala

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Penaeus vannamei Boone, 1931 commonly known as the white legged shrimp was observed along with *Penaeus indicus* in the landings at Kalamukku fish landing centre Ernakulam, on 15.11.2018. The catch was from a single day trawler whose depth of operation was 15 m. Distributed along the Pacific coast of Mexico, central and south America up to Peru, the shrimp was introduced in India on a pilot scale for culture in 2003 and later in 2009 large scale production began. However, it was not recorded in the wild capture fisheries for shrimps. In the landings at Kalamukku, the females measured 109 to 146 mm in total length and weighed 8.9 to 26.6 g. The males measured 100 to 145 mm in total length and 7.5 to

24.4 g in weight. Among the sample analysed 51% were *P. vannamei* and 49% were *P. indicus* based on numbers. Its appearance in the landings is most likely due to the recent floods in Kerala during August, 2018. Information on their breeding populations in non-native waters are lacking, although there are reports on escapes of the species from aquaculture production facilities. In 71% of the females the guts were empty and rest 29% had half or full gut content. In males 50% had empty stomach and rest with half to full stomach content. Stomach contents comprised of digested matter and crustacean remains. The females had immature ovaries. The species can be distinguished from *P. indicus* by the following morphological characters



Fig.1 a. *Penaeus indicus*; b. *Penaeus vannamei*

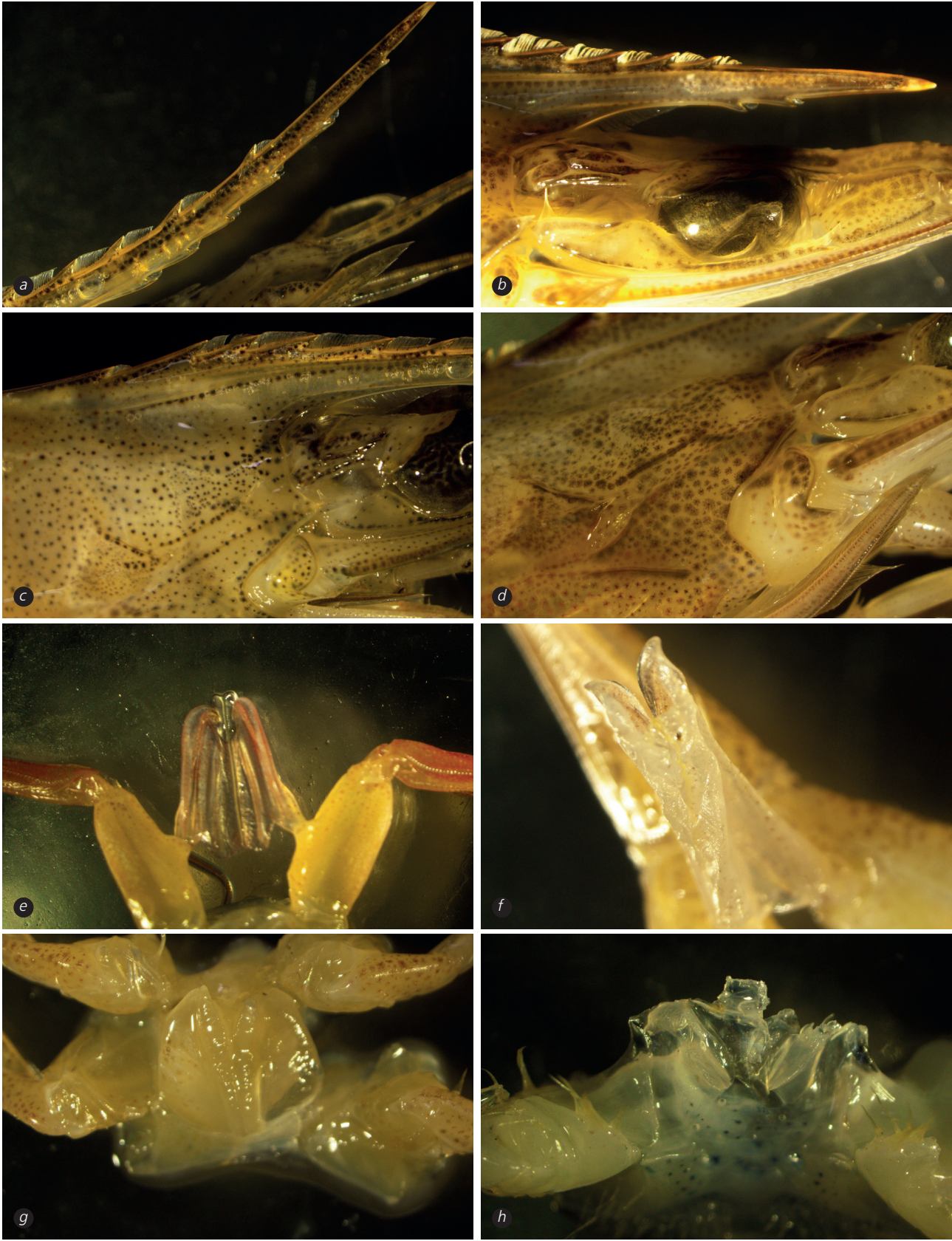


Fig.2. Morphological characters of *P. indicus*: a. Rostrum; c. Hepatic sulcus; e. Petasma; g. Thelycum and *P. vannamei*: b. Rostrum; d. Hepatic sulcus; f. Petasma; h. Thelycum

Character	<i>Penaeus vannamei</i>	<i>Penaeus indicus</i>
Rostral teeth	Only two rostral teeth on the ventral side.	Three to five rostral teeth on the ventral side.
Hepatic sulcus	wide and prominent	not prominent
Petasma	Symmetrical semi open, with free distal part of lateral lobe long considerably overreaching median lobe and subelliptical	Petasma symmetrical semi closed with median lobe short and the lateral lobe strongly curved and gaping distally
Thelycum	Open with pair of oblique sharp ridges on anterior part of sternite 14, mesial part of ridges produced ventrally in sharp auricles	Closed with the pair of lateral plates on sternite 14 forming thick mesial lips meeting along mid line
Body colour and appearance	Body translucent white with often bluish hue. Legs often appear white	Body pale pink to yellowish, semi translucent. Pleopods pink or red.