

Bumper catch of green mussel in Chettikulam, Calicut

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Malabar coast is the known hub of quality green mussel *Perna viridis*, L. Total bivalve landed along Kozhikode - Kannur coast during 2006 was estimated to 15682 t in which nearly 65% was contributed by the *Perna viridis*. (Laxmilatha *et al.*, 2007). Along the coast between Kozhikode and Chombala nearly 283 fulltime and 218 part time mussel pickers are engaged actively in exploiting mussels from the natural beds.

On 10th and 11th October 2010 a large number of villagers living near the coast in the age group

of 5 to 65 years mostly women participated in the mussel picking on the rocky beaches of Chettikulam, near 10 km north of Kozhikode (Fig. 1). The sea receded miles away from the beach keeping exposed the laterite rocks for hours together in the evenings. The lowest low tide level on 10th October 2010 at 18.41 hrs was only 0.09 m. The quantity exploited on these days alone touched 600 kg and the size ranged from 50 to 80 mm.



Fig.1 a and b. Mussel beds along the rocky beaches of Chettikulam, Calicut.