

**NOTE ON *NEMATOPALAEEMON TENUIPES* (HENDERSON, 1893)  
(CRUSTACEA: PALAEMONIDAE) FROM THE PAKISTAN  
COAST OF ARABIAN SEA**

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On a few occasions palaemonid shrimps turned up in the collections from the Karachi Fish Harbour. The specimens resembled *Nematopalaemon tenuipes* (Henderson, 1893) but for the walking legs which were invariably missing or incomplete, in the latter case the dactyli were broken at or just near the base. When we searched the palaemonids housed in the Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre, there was a specimen from Makran coast which had the left fourth leg complete. We are therefore briefly reporting on *N. tenuipes* from Pakistan waters. The only reference from Pakistan is in context to its distribution (Holthuis and Miquel, 1984), probably based on a sight record by Miquel during his visit to Pakistan. Our specimens could be compared with the material from Bay of Bengal, all intact, made available to the authors in 1968, during their visit to Bangladesh, the then East Pakistan.

All the specimens will be deposited in the collections of the Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre (MRC).

The abbreviation cl. is used in the text for the carapace length measuring from the orbit to the posterior margin of the carapace.

***Nematopalaemon tenuipes* (Henderson, 1893)**

(Fig. 1)

*Leander tenuipes* Henderson, 1893: 440, pl.40: figs.14,15.

*Palaemon luzonensis* Blanco, 1939: 201, pl.1.

*Palaemon (Nematopalaemon) tenuipes*.- Holthuis, 1950:44, fig.7.

*Nematopalaemon tenuipes*.- Holthuis, 1980: 108; Holthuis and Miquel, 1984, Palaem Nemat 3, fig.; Chace and Bruce, 1993: 39.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED**

Arabian Sea: Karachi Fish Harbour: 18 September, 1967, 1 male, MRC Cat. No.CARI 214; 15 August, 1971, 1 male, 8 females, MRC Cat. No.CARI 215; 23 August, 1976, 6 males, 4 females (3 berried), MRC Cat. No. CARI 216;10 November, 1992, 1 male, MRC Cat.No. CARI 218. Male cl.12-15 mm; females cl.12-14 mm; berried females cl.13-16 mm. Makran coast: 1984, 2 females (1 berried), MRC Cat No.CARI 217, berried female cl.12 mm.

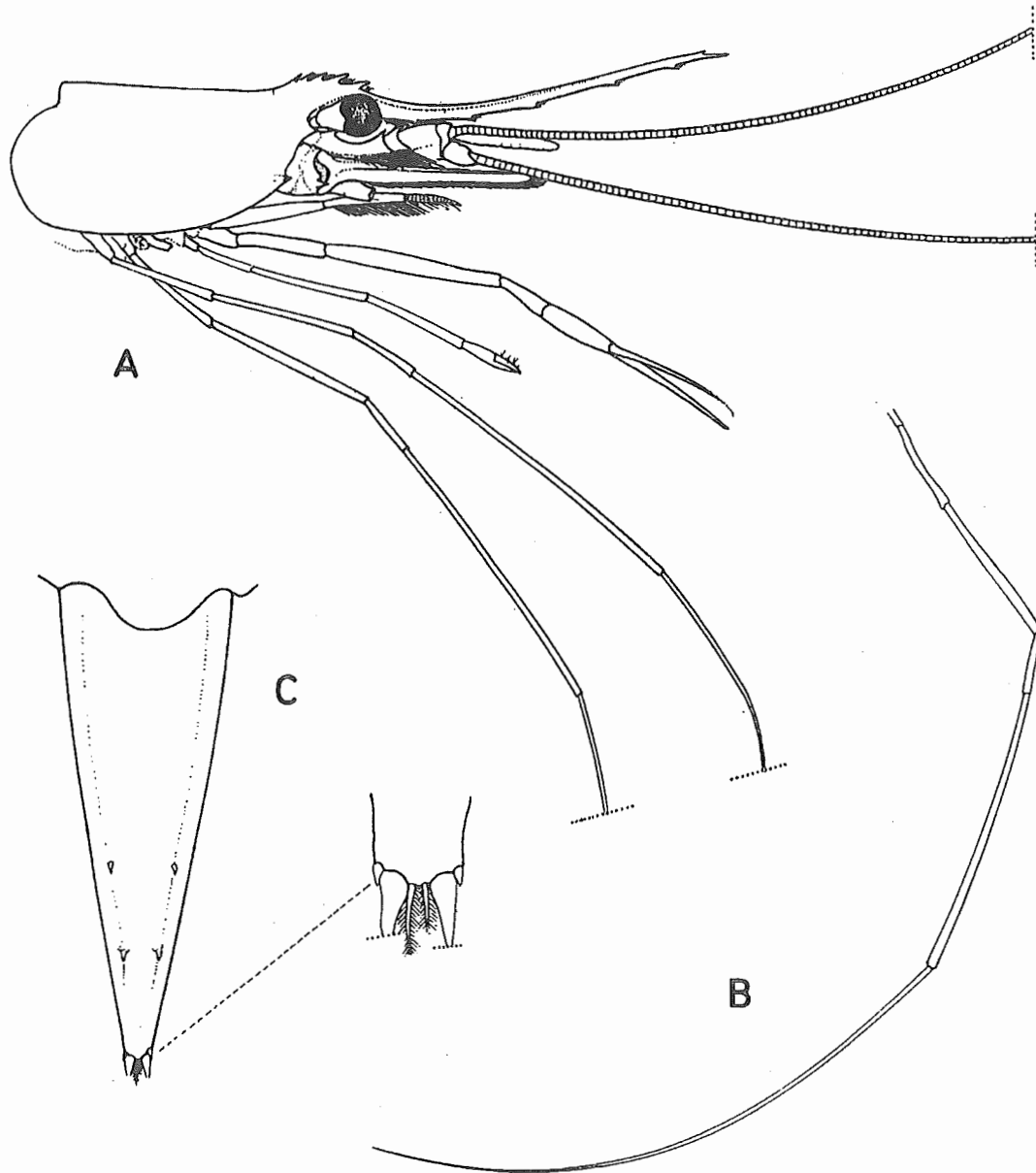


Fig.1. *Nematopalaemon tenuipes* (Henderson, 1893). A. Carapace and appendages of male (cl. 12 mm); B. Left fourth leg from female (cl.12 mm); C. Telson of berried female (cl.15 mm).

Bay of Bengal: locality unknown, 1968. A fairly large series of both sexes, MRC Cat No. CARI 213. Female cl.11-12 mm, male cl.10-11 mm, berried females cl.13-16 mm.

#### REMARKS

The Pakistan specimens which measures 12 to 16 mm in carapace length agree well with the existing descriptions. It is, however, noticed that the basal crest of the rostrum is with 4 to 7 teeth, and when present there is only one subdistal tooth; the lower margin has 4 to 5 teeth (Fig. 1A), the extreme tip is mostly broken, when complete, it overreaches the antennal scale, as already mentioned by Chace and Bruce (1993). The last three pairs of legs are characteristic having extremely long, threadlike dactyli, often missing or incomplete. The complete leg is shown in figure 1B. The sixth abdominal somite does not exceed 2/3 length of the postorbital carapace length (see Chace and Bruce, 1993).

The telson (Fig. 1C) is armed with two pairs of minute dorsal spines and two pairs of unequal spines at the tip, as already pointed out by Holthuis (1950: 45), in our specimens the tip is generally broken.

#### DISTRIBUTION

South Africa, Somalia?, India, Burma, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan, New Zealand? (Chace and Bruce, 1993), Pakistan (Holthuis and Miquel, 1984).

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