



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**TAXONOMY AND SOME ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MEIOBENTHIC
HARPACTICOID COPEPODS IN COASTAL WATER OF PENINSULAR
MALAYSIA**

ZALEHA BT. KASSIM

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By

ZALEHA BT. KASSIM

**Thesis Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor
of Philosophy in the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies,
Universiti Putra Malaysia**

November 2000



Dedication

To Hubby, Sham,

Kids,

**M.Shaheed
Najeehah
Naili
M.Muhaimin**

.....to whom I owe it all.....



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

**TAXONOMY AND SOME ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF
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November 2000

Chairman: Ahmad Ismail, Ph.D.

Faculty: Science and Environmental Studies

A study on the taxonomy and some ecological aspects of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods found in coastal water of Peninsular Malaysia was conducted from June 1996 to August 1999. The taxonomic study was carried out using specimens collected from Langkawi Island, Pangkor Island, Port Dickson, Tanjung Balau, Tanjung Piai and Redang Island. A total of 40 species, representing 29 genera from 16 families of harpacticoid copepods were identified. All the 40 species were unrecorded species in Malaysian coast. For all species, description, illustration and taxonomic notes were given.



The study on some ecological aspects of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods was carried out along Port Dickson coast. Samples were obtained from the established transects perpendicular to the sea using a transparent hand corer with the inner diameter of 3.57 cm.

Harpacticoid copepods were the second dominant group of meiobenthos found in the studied areas. They contributed between 15% to 60% to total meiobenthos found in the sediment. The density and diversity distribution of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods along the shore was correlated significantly ($p < 0.05$) with certain environmental factors, namely salinity, dissolved oxygen, percentage of silt, clay and sand, water content, ground water level, depth of brown layer and sorting type of sediment. The vertical and horizontal zonation was correlated with the concentration of chlorophyll *a* in the sediment. The horizontal zonation was also correlated with the percentage of clay. The different set of environmental factors that found to correlate with the meiobenthic harpacticoid copepod distribution in the different studied areas indicated that different beaches might have their own environmental factors that governed the distribution.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

**TAKSONOMI DAN BEBERAPA ASPEK EKOLOGI COPEPODA
HARFACTICOIDA MEIOBENTIK DI PERAIRAN PERSISIR
SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA**

Oleh

ZALEHA BT. KASSIM

November 2000

Pengerusi: Ahmad Ismail, Ph.D.

Fakulti: Sains dan Pengajian Alam Sekitar

Satu kajian mengenai taksonomi dan beberapa aspek ekologi Copepoda Harpacticoida meiobentik yang terdapat di perairan persisir Semenanjung Malaysia telah dijalankan mulai Jun 1996 sehingga Ogos 1999. Kajian taksonomi telah dilakukan menggunakan spesimen yang diperolehi daripada Pulau Langkawi, Pulau Pangkor, Port Dickson, Tanjung Balau, Tanjung Piai dan Pulau Redang. Sejumlah 40 spesis, mewakili 29 genera daripada 16 famili Copepoda Harpacticoida telah dikenalpasti. Kesemua 40 spesis itu adalah spesis yang belum direkodkan di perairan Malaysia. Kesemua spesis diberikan penerangan, ilustrasi dan nota-nota taksonomi.



Kajian terhadap beberapa aspek ekologi Copepoda Harpacticoida meiobentik telah dilakukan di sepanjang pantai Port Dickson. Sampel-sampel diperolehi daripada transek yang ditetapkan menganjur bersudut tepat ke arah laut menggunakan tiub transparan yang berdiameter dalamnya 3.57 cm.

Copepoda Harpacticoida merupakan kumpulan meiobentos yang kedua dominan di kawasan kajian. Mereka menyumbang 15% hingga 60% daripada keseluruhan meiobentos yang ditemui di dalam sedimen. Taburan kepadatan dan kepelbagaian Copepoda Harpacticoida meiobentik di sepanjang pantai didapati berkorelasi secara bererti ($p < 0.05$) dengan faktor-faktor persekitaran tertentu iaitu kemasinan, oksigen terlarut, peratus kandungan kelodak, lempung dan pasir, kandungan air, aras air bawah tanah, kedalaman lapisan coklat dan jenis pengisihan sedimen. Zonasi menegak dan mendatar haiwan itu di kawasan kajian didapati berkorelasi dengan kepekatan klorofil *a* di dalam sedimen. Zonasi mendatar juga berkorelasi dengan peratus kelodak. Perbezaan set faktor-faktor persekitaran yang berkorelasi dengan taburan Copepoda Harpacticoida di kawasan kajian yang berbeza menandakan bahawa pantai yang berbeza berkemungkinan mempunyai faktor-faktor persekitarannya tersendiri yang mengawal taburan Copepoda Harpacticoida di situ.

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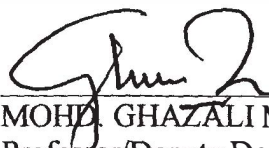
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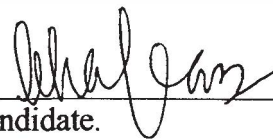
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work expect for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



Candidate.

ZALEHA KASSIM

8.1.2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL SHEETS	ix
DECLARATION FORM	xi
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xx
GLOSSARY	xxix
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
Objective of the Present Study	10
Structure of Thesis	11
II LITERATURE REVIEW	12
Taxonomic Study of Harpacticoid Copepods	12
Problems in Taxonomic Characters of Harpacticoid	13
Tropical Harpacticoid Species	16
Type locality and Assemblages of Tropical Species	18
Species Assemblages	43
Different Habitat Type Assemblages	43
Role of Environmental Factors	45
Distribution	49
Spatial Distribution and the Role of Environmental	
Factors	50
Temporal Distribution and the Role of Environmental	
Factors	57
Ecological Studies of Harpacticoid Copepods in Tropical	
Waters	58
Role of Environmental Factors	59
Effect of Monsoon Season	63
Sampling Methods	65
Quantitive Sampling	66
Qualitative Sampling	73
Sampling in Vegetations	74
Subsampling and Replication	75
Conclusion	76



III	MATERIALS AND METHODS	78
	Sampling Stations	78
	Taxonomic Study on Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Coastal Water of Peninsular Malaysia	83
	Field Sampling	83
	Work at Intertidal Zone	83
	Work at Subtidal Zone	84
	Work in vegetated Areas	84
	Extraction from Coarse Sediments	85
	Extraction from Fine Sediments	87
	Sorting and examining the Harpacticoid Copepod	88
	Dissection of the Harpacticoid Copepod	89
	Key to Order Harpacticoida	91
	Distribution of Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Relation to Environmental Factors	95
	Study Areas	95
	Sampling of Meiobenthos	97
	Sampling of Environmental Parameters	99
	Sampling for Sediment Analysis	100
	Grain Size Analysis	101
	Extraction of Meiobenthos	105
	Chlorophyll <i>a</i> and Pheopigment	106
	Water Content	108
	Total Organic Matter (TOM)	108
	Data Analysis	109
	Horizontal and Vertical Zonation of Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Relation to Environmental Factors	110
	Study Area	110
	Sampling of Meiobenthos	111
	Sampling of Environmental Parameters	111
	Samples Processing and Data Analysis	113
IV	RESULTS	114
	Taxonomic Study on Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Coastal Water of Peninsular Malaysia	114
	List of Species	114
	Description of Species	119
	Discussion	250
	Conclusion	255
	Distribution of Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Relation to Environmental Factors	256
	Taxonomic Composition	256
	Contribution to Total Meiobenthos	256
	Species Density	261
	Diversity	268



	The Grain Size Composition and Sediment Type	274
	Environmental Parameters	278
	Pearson Correlation Analysis	308
	Discussion	310
	Conclusion	314
	Horizontal and vertical zonation of Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods in Relation to Environmental Factors	315
	Horizontal Zonation	315
	Vertical Zonation	321
	Environmental Parameters	326
	Statistical Analysis	356
	Discussion	359
	Conclusion	362
V	DISCUSSION	364
	Taxonomic Study	364
	Dominance and Contribution	366
	Harpacticoid Copepods in Relation to Environmental Factors	368
	Zonation of Harpacticoid Copepods	372
	Conclusion	380
VI	SUMMARY	383
	Recommendation	385
	Scope of Future Work	385
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	387
	APPENDICES	
	Appendix A	426
	Appendix B1	436
	Appendix B2	439
	Appendix B3	441
	VITA	444



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Families and number of harpacticoid species in the world after Bodin (1997).....	22
2.2	List of harpacticoid species identified and described from tropical region.....	23
4.1	Setal formula for the harpacticoid copepod species described from coastal water of Peninsular Malaysia. (Ex. – exopod; En. Endopod).....	254
4.2	Taxonomic composition of the meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in Port Dickson beach in August 1998; sequence follows Lang (1948).....	257
4.3	Abundance (ind./10 cm ²) of all taxa of intertidal meiobenthos in Port Dickson, on August 1998.....	258
4.4	Dominance (%) of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods and other meiobenthos at Port Dickson beach on August 1998. (Others comprised tubellarian, polychaetes, cumacean, isopods, amphipods and other copepods).....	259
4.5	Abundance (ind./10 cm ²) of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods between 0 cm to 10 cm depth of sediment in Port Dickson in August 1998.....	262
4.6	Shannon-Wiener diversity (H'), Pielou evenness (J'), species richness (D') and number of species (S) of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in Port Dickson beach on August 1998..	269
4.7	Percentage of each particle size (um), mean, sorting, skewness and kurtosis (phi) in the sediments at Port Dickson beach Peninsular Malaysia on August 1998. (Q represents quadrat, a represents 0 cm to 5 cm depth and b represent 5 cm to 10 cm depth).....	276
4.8	Verbal classification of sediments in Port Dickson beach on August 1998.....	277
4.9	Environmental parameters measured <i>in situ</i> at Port Dickson beach in August 1998. (Q represents quadrat).....	279



4.10	Content of water (g/g sediment), total organic matter (g/g sediment), chlorophyll <i>a</i> (mg/m ³) and pheopigment (mg/m ³) in different depth of sediments at Port Dickson beach in August 1998.....	288
4.11	Total density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods and other important meiobenthos (ind./10cm ²) in Comas Port Dickson in July 1999. (Others include Turbellaria, Cumacea, Ostracoda, Tadgrigrada and Foraminifera.....	316
4.12	Density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods and other meiobenthos (ind./10cm ²) in the sediments of transect 1 at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	323
4.13	Density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods and other meiobenthos (ind./10cm ²) in the sediments of transect 2 at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	324
4.14	Density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods and other meiobenthos (ind./10cm ²) in the sediments of transect 3 at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	325
4.15	Percentage of each particle size (microns) and mean of grain size (Mz) in phi of the sediments at Comas, Port Dickson beach Peninsular Malaysia on August 1999.....	327
4.16	Dissolved oxygen (mg/l) in interstitial water at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	328
4.17	Salinity (ppt) of Interstitial Water at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	332
4.18	Temperature (°C) of Interstitial Water at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	336
4.19	Water content in the sediments at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	340
4.20	Total organic matter content in the sediments at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	344
4.21	Concentration of chlorophyll <i>a</i> (mg/m ³) in the sediments at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	348
4.22	Concentration of pheopigment (mg/m ³) in the sediments at Comas Port Dickson in July 1999.....	352



4.23	Pearson correlation of environmental parameters and meiobenthos in different depth of sediment at Comas, Port Dickson beach.....	357
4.24	Pearson correlation of average measure of environmental parameters and meiobenthos in the sediment at Comas, Port Dickson beach.....	358
5.1	Ethological group of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods found in Comas Port Dickson in August 1999.....	376
A1	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	426
A2	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on density of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	426
A3	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species number of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	426
A4	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species number of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	427
A5	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species diversity of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	427
A6	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species diversity of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	427
A7	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on evenness of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	428
A8	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on evenness of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	428



A9	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species richness of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	428
A10	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on species richness of meiobenthic harpacticoid copepods in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	429
A11	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the salinity in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	429
A12	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the salinity in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	429
A13	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the temperature in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	430
A14	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the temperature in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	430
A15	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the dissolved oxygen in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	430
A16	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the dissolved oxygen in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	431
A17	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the ground water level in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	431
A18	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the ground water level in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	431
A19	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the brown layer level in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	432
A20	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the brown layer level in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	432
A21	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the water content in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	432
A22	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the water content in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	433
A23	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the total organic matter in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	433



A24	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the total organic matter in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	433
A25	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the concentration of chlorophyll α in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	434
A26	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the concentration of chlorophyll α in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998..	434
A27	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the concentration of pheopigment in different tide levels at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998..	434
A28	Kruskal-Wallis analysis on the concentration of pheopigment in different stations at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998.....	435



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	General Morphology of Female Harpacticoid Copepod. A. Lateral View. B. Ventral View. (Adapted from Wells 1976)....	4
3.1	Map of Peninsular Malaysia Showing the Sampling Stations...	79
3.2	Sampling Stations Along Port Dickson Coast.....	81
3.3	Sampling Station at Comas,Port Dickson	82
3.4	Modified Boisseau-type Apparatus for Elutriation of Sand.....	86
3.5	Technique in Using a Hand-operated Corer for Sampling in Intertidal Zone	98
4.1	<i>Longipedia spinulosa</i> Ito. Female. A Leg 2. B. Exopod of Leg 5. Male. C. Leg 5.....	123
4.2	<i>Scottolana uxoris</i> Por. Female. A. Habitus. Lateral View. B. habitus. Dorsal View. C. leg 1. D. Urosome. E. Leg 4.....	126
4.3	<i>Scottolana uxoris</i> Por. Female. A. Leg 2. B. Leg 3. C. Antennule.....	127
4.4	<i>Ectinosoma californicum</i> Lang. Female. A. leg 5. B. Urosome. <i>Ectinosoma paranorami</i> Lang. Female. C. Leg 5. D. Penultimate and Anal Somite with Caudal Rami.....	132
4.5	<i>Halectinosoma arenicola</i> (Rouch). Female. A. Ventral View of Urosome. Male. B. Ventral View of Urosome with Leg 5 and Leg 6.....	136
4.6	<i>Halectinosoma arenicola</i> (Rouch). Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Leg 3. D. Leg 4.....	137
4.7	<i>Halectinosoma otakoua</i> Wells, Hicks & Coull. Female. A. Habitus. B. Ventral View of Urosome. C. Antenna.....	141
4.8	<i>Halectinosoma otakoua</i> Wells, Hicks & Coull. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Leg 3. D. Leg 4. E Leg 5.....	142
4.9	<i>Arenosetella kaiseri</i> Lang. Female. A. Habitus. B. Dorsal View of Urosome. C. Lateral View of Anal Somite and Caudal Rami Showing the Projection of a Pair of Chitinous Structure...	146

4.10	<i>Arenosetella kaiseri</i> Lang. Female. A. Antennule. B. Endopodite of Mandible. C. Maxilla. Male. D. Leg 5. E. Leg 6. F. Antennule.....	147
4.11	<i>Arenosetella kaiseri</i> Lang. Female. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Leg 3. D. Leg 4. E Leg 5.....	148
4.12	<i>Tachidius</i> sp. Female. A. habitus with egg. B. Leg. C. Caudal ramus. D. Leg. 5.....	152
4.13	<i>Harpacticus spinolosus</i> Lang. Female. A. Urosome B. Leg 1. Male. C. Leg 5 D. Leg 1.....	155
4.14	<i>Tisbe bermudensis</i> Willey. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 5. <i>Scutellidium ligusticum</i> (Brian). Male C. Urosome. D. Leg 5. E. Leg 6.....	160
4.15	<i>Porcellidium brevicaudatum</i> Thompson and T. Scott. Female. A. Cephalothorax. B. Antenna. C. Caudal Rami. Male. D. Caudal Rami with the Leg 5.....	163
4.16	<i>Porcellidium brevicaudatum</i> Thompson and T. Scott. Female. A. Dorsal View of Leg 1. B. Ventral View of Leg 1. C. Leg 2. D. Leg 5.....	164
4.17	<i>Diarthrodes novae-zealandiae</i> Thomson. Male. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Antennule. D. Leg 5.....	167
4.18	<i>Dactylopusia tisboides</i> . Female. A. Leg 1. B. Antennule. C. Rostrum. D. Leg 5. E. Antenna.....	170
4.19	<i>Dactylopusia vulgaris</i> Sars. Female. A. Leg 5. <i>Dactylopusia glacialis</i> Sars. Male B. Leg 1. C. Leg 5.....	174
4.20	<i>Parastenhelia</i> sp. Female. A. Ventral View of Urosome. B. Leg 5. C. Anal Operculum.....	177
4.21	<i>Parastenhelia</i> sp. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Antenna. C. Antennule. D. Mandible.....	178
4.22	<i>Stenhelia</i> (St.) sp. Female. A. Caudal rami and the last urosomite. B. Rostrum. C. Antennule. D. Leg 1. E. Leg 5.....	182

4.23	<i>Stenhelio (St.)</i> sp. Male. A. Antenna. B. Leg 1. C. Leg 2. D. Leg 3. E. Leg 4. F. Rostrum. G. Antennule.....	183
4.24	<i>Robertsonia knoxi</i> (Thomson & A. Scott). Female. A. Antenna. B. Antennule C. Leg 1. D. Leg 5. Male. E. Leg 1. F. Leg 5.....	186
4.25	<i>Pseudamphiascopsis ismaelensis</i> (Monard). Female. A. Antennule. B. Rostrum. C. Leg 1. D. Penultimate and Anal somite with Caudal Rami, Lateral View. E. Leg 5.....	188
4.26	<i>Amphiascus minutus</i> (Claus). Female. A. Urosome, Dorsal View. B. Rostrum and Antennule. C. Antenna. D. Leg 1. E. Leg 5.....	191
4.27	<i>Amphiascoides brevifurca</i> (Czerniavski). Female. A. Leg 5. <i>Amphiascoides petkovskii</i> , Lang. Female. B. Urosome, Ventral View. C. Leg 1. D. Antennule. E. Rostrum. F. Leg 5. G. Caudal Ramus with Principal Terminal Setae.....	195
4.28	<i>Typhlamphiascus pectinifer</i> Lang. Male. A. Urosome, Ventral View. B. Leg 5. C. leg 6.....	198
4.29	<i>Bulbamphiascus imus</i> (Brady). Female. A. Antennule with Rostrum. B. Antenna. C. Leg 1. D. Leg 5 E. Caudal Ramus.....	201
4.30	<i>Robertgurneya oligochaeta</i> Noodt. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 5.	204
4.31	<i>Robertgurneya oligochaeta</i> Noodt. Female. A. Antennule. B. Antenna. C. Posterior of Urosomite with Caudal Rami.....	205
4.32	<i>Robertgurneya rostrata</i> (Gurney). Female. A. Antennule. B. Antenna. C. Anal somite and caudal ramus. Male. Leg 5.....	208
4.33	<i>Robertgurneya rostrata</i> (Gurney). Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 5. C. Leg 6. D. Rostrum.....	209
4.34	<i>Haloschizopera abyssi</i> Becker. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Antennule with Rostrum. C. Leg 5. D. Posterior of Urosome, Lateral View.....	212
4.35	<i>Paramphiascella intermedia</i> (T. Scott). Male. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Antenna. D. Leg 5. E. Leg 6.....	215
4.36	<i>Metis ignea</i> (Philippi). Male. A. Urosome, Ventral View. B. Exopod of Leg 1. C. Antennule. C. D. Antenna. E. Leg 2. F.	



	Leg 3. G. Leg 4.....	218
4.37	<i>Nitocra elegans</i> Boeck. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 2. C. Leg 3. D. Leg 4. E. Antenna. F. Antennule. G. Leg 5.....	221
4.38	<i>Psyllocamptus tiarticulatus</i> Lang. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 5..	224
4.39	<i>Ameira parvuloides</i> Lang. Female. A. Leg 1. B. Antenna. C. Penultimate and Anal Somite with Caudal Rami, Dorsal View. D. Leg 5.....	226
4.40	<i>Tetragoniceps brevicauda</i> T. Scott. Female. A. Leg. 1 B. leg 2. C. Leg 3. D. Leg 5. E. Anal Somite with Caudal Rami, Dorsal View. F. Antennule.....	229
4.41	<i>Psyllophodosyllus</i> sp. Female. A. Urosome, Ventral View. B. Caudal Ramus, Lateral View. C. Leg 5. Male. D. Leg 5. E. Leg 6. F. Caudal ramus.....	232
4.42	<i>Psyllophodosyllus</i> sp. Female. A. Antennule. B. Antenna. C. Leg 2. D. Leg 4.....	233
4.43	<i>Lourinia armata</i> (Claus). Female. A. Posterior of Urosome. B. Antennule.....	236
4.44	<i>Lourinia armata</i> (Claus). Female. A. Leg 1. B. Leg 5. C. Antenna.....	237
4.45	<i>Cletodes latirostris</i> Drzycimski. Female. Female. A. Urosome, Ventral View. B. Leg 5. C. Antennule.....	240
4.46	<i>Enhydrosoma latipes</i> (A. Scott). Female. A. Urosome, Ventral View. B. Leg 4. C. Leg 5.....	243
4.47	<i>Laophonte cornuta</i> Philippi. Male. A. Urosome. B. Dorsal View of Posterior of Urosome. Female. C. Leg 5.....	246
4.48	<i>Laophonte cornuta</i> Philippi. Male. A. Leg. 1. B. Antennule. C. Antenna. D. Rostrum.....	247
4.49	<i>Paralaophonte octavia</i> (Monard). Female. A. Leg. 1. B. Antennule. C. Leg 5.....	249
4.50	Dominance (%) of Meiobenthic Harpacticoid Copepods and Other Meiobenthos at Port Dickson Beach on August 1998. (Others comprised tubellarian, polychaetes, cumacean,	

