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Species diversity of any region can be illustrated by means of an available checklist. It provides an overview of the species that have been recorded. and can be considered to understand the local fauna. Fortnightly surveys were carried out to collect the shell-molluscs samples during 2012 - 2014 period from the by-catch of shrimp/fish trawlers landed at Sakthikulangara-Neendakara Fishing Harbour, Kollam. Collected bivalves and gastropods included both empty shells and living animals. Collected shells were brought to the laboratory and placed in freezer for 24 hours. This would liquefy the mollusc body and allowed easy extraction with a strong jet of water. For shells with flesh, freezedefrost-freeze for two to three cycles was done. On the final cycle, it was defrosted slowly and the shell was put in a small container filled with sand to catch any exudates from decomposition. A device with hook was used to remove animal from shell. After washing shells with water, species were identified and season and magnitude of occurrence were recorded. Species were identified by following Satyamurti (1952, 1956), Dance (1974) and Sowerby (1996). Magnitude of occurrence was indicated by Abundant (A) (>10 specimens collected), Common



Fig. 1. Magnitude of occurrence (in %) of shell-molluscs landed in Sakthikulangara-Neendakara harbour during 2012-14

(C) (7-9 specimens collected), Occasional (O) (4-6 specimens collected) and Rare (R) (< 3 specimens collected) as per Lee and Chao (2005). For estimating peak seasons for gastropods and bivalves, trawl landings data of 2007-2014 were analyzed.

Observations on the landings of shells indicated that 54 species of gastropods belonging to 27 families; 9 species of bivalves belonging to 5 families and one species of scaphopod were landed as by-catch of trawlers (Table 1). A total of 64 species belonging to 33 families of molluscan shells were collected during this period. Magnitude of occurrence studied for all molluscs landed in the landing centres showed that 38 species were abundant (A), 14 species were common (C), 8 species were occasional and 4 species were rare (R) (Fig. 1). The gastropods came first in number of species recorded and more abundant in the landing centres compared to others. Analysis of gastropods and bivalves landed by trawlers during 2007-2014 at Sakthikulangara-Neendakara Fisheries Harbours revealed that Single day trawl net (MTN) contributed more (>11-21%) landings compared to multiday trawl net (MDTN). Landings were more (>60%) in



Fig. 2. Month-wise mean percentage landing of gastropods and bivalves in by-catch at Sakthikulangara - Neendakara Fisheries Harbours durng 2007-2014

Species	Common name	Magnitude of occurrence	Season of occurrence
GASTROPODA			
Turritellidae	Turret/Screw shell		
Turritella attenuata		A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov
Turritella duplicata	Duplicate turret	С	Jan, Feb, May, Aug, Sep, Oct
Terebridae	Auger shell		
Duplicaria duplicata	Duplicate auger	0	Dec, Aug, Sep
Harpidae	Harp shell		
Harpa major	Major harp	A	Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Olividae	Olive shell		
Agaronia gibbosa (Oliva gibbosa)	Gibbous olive	А	Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov
Ancilla acuminata	Pointed ancilla	A	Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, April, May
Ficidae	Fig shell		
Ficus ficus	Common fig shell	A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Naticidae	Moon shell		
Tanea lineata (Natica lineata)	Lined moon shell	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep
Natica vitellus	Calf moon shell	A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov, Dec
Polinices mammilla (Mammilla fibrosa)	Pear-shaped moon	A O	Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep Aug, Sep
Architectonicidae	Sundial shell		
Architectonica perspectiva	Perspective sundial	0	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Nov
Architectonica purpurata	Purpurata sundial	R	Jan
Rostellariidae	Tibia shell		
Tibia curta	Indian tibia	A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep
Cassidae	Helmet/Bonnet shell		
Phalium glaucum	Grey bonnet	A	Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Nov
Semicassis bisulcata	Japanese bonnet	A	Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Cassis cornuta	Horned helmet	R	Aug
Tonnidae	Tun shell		
Tonna dolium	Spotted tun	A	Dec, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Muricidae	Rock snails		
Rapana rapiformis (Rapana bulbosa)	Turnip shell	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Murex trapa	Rare spined murex	A	Dec, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Chicoreus virgineus (Murex virgineus)	Virgin murex	А	Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Haustellum haustellum (Murex haustellum)	Snipe's bill murex	С	Dec, Jan, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep
Vokesimurex malabaricus (Murex malabaricus)	Malabar murex	0	Feb, Aug, Sep, Oct
Purpura bufo (Thais bufo)	Toad purpura	А	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Nov
Strombidae	Conch shell		
Mirabilistrombus listeri (Strombus listeri)	Lister's conch	С	Jan, Feb, Dec
Dolomena plicata sibbaldi (S. plicatus sibbaldi)	Pigeon conch	0	Dec, Aug, Jan, Feb

Table 1. Checklist of molluscs, their magnitude and season of occurrence at Sakthikulangara- Neendakara landing centres.

Species	Common name	Magnitude of occurrence	Season of occurrence
Volutidae	Volutes shell		
Harpulina lapponica loroisi	Lorois's volute	С	Jan, Feb
Babyloniidae	Babylon shell		
Babylonia spirata	Spiral babylon	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Babylonia zeylanica	Indian babylon	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov
Melongenidae	Crown conch		
Volegalea cochlidium	Spiral melongena	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Fasciolariidae	Spindle snails		
Fusinus colus	Distaff spindle	А	Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Aug, Sep, Oct
Fusinus forceps	Forceps spindle	А	Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Turbinellidae	chank shell		
Turbinella pyrum (Xancus pyrum)	Sacred chank	A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Bursidae	Frog shell		
Bufonaria echinata (Bursa spinosa)	Spiny frog shell	A	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Bufonaria crumena (Bursa crumena)	Frilled frog shell	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov
Tutufa bufo	Red-mouth frog shell	0	Jan, Aug
Ranellidae	Triton shell		
Cymatium (Lotoria) perryi (C.(Lotoria) lotorium)	Perry's triton	C	Apr, May, Jun, Aug
Gyrineum natator	Tuberculate gyre triton	С	Jan, Aug
Turridae	Turrid shell		
Lophiotoma indica	Indian turrid	А	Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov
Cypraeidae	Cowry shell		
Mauritia arabica (Cypraea arabica)	Arabian cowry	С	Aug, Sep, Oct
Erronea errones (Cypraea errones)	Wandering cowrie	С	Jan, Feb, Mar
Nassariidae	Nassa shell/Dog whelk		
Nassarius conoidalis	Cone-shaped nassa	С	Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar
Nassarius olivaceus	Olive nassa	А	Jan, Feb, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov
Nassarius stolatus		А	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Nov
Conidae	Cone snails		
Conus betulinus	Betuline cone	С	Jan, Feb, Apr
Conus textile	Textile cone	А	Jan, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Conus milne edwardsi	Glory of India cone	R	Aug
Conus inscriptus	Engraved cone	С	Jan, Feb, Mar
Conus figulinus		С	Jan, Feb, Mar, Aug
Personidae	Distorsio snails		
Distorsio perdistorta	Hunchback distorsio	R	Jan, Aug
Buccinidae	Whelk shell		
Cantharus tranquebaricus	Tranquebar goblet	А	Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Ovulidae	False cowries		
Volva volva	Shuttle volva	0	Jan, Feb, Mar

Species	Common name	Magnitude of occurrence	Season of occurrence
Cancellariidae	Nutmeg snails		
Trigonostoma sp.	Scalariform nutmeg	С	Jan, Mar, Apr
Calyptraeidae	Slipper snails		
Desmaulus extinctorium	Conical slipper shell	А	Nov, Dec, Jan
BIVALVIA			
Donacidae	Wedge shells		
Donax scortum	Leather donax	А	Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, sep, Nov
Arcidae	Ark shell		
Trisidos tortuosa	Propellor ark	А	Dec, Jan, Feb, Oct, Nov
Anadara inaequivalvis	Inequivalve ark	А	Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, sep, Oct
Anadara formosa		А	Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Oct
Cardiidae	Heart cockles		
Vepricardium asiaticum	Asiatic cockle	А	Nov, Dec, Jan, Apr, May, Jun, Aug
Vepricardium coronatum		С	Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Jun, Aug
Trochidae	Top shells		
Clanculus sp.		А	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug
Gibbula sp.		А	Jan, Feb, Mar, May, Jun, Aug
Veneridae	Venus shell		
Antigona lamellaris	Lamellate venus	0	Dec, Jan, Aug
SCAPHOPODA			
Dentalidae	Tusk shells		
Dentalium sp.	Elephant tusk shell	А	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Aug

[A = Abundant; C = Common, O = Occasional, R = Rare. Previously known species name is given in parenthesis]

Sakthikulangara compared to Neendakara during 2007-2014 period. Month-wise mean percentage landings of gastropods and bivalves indicated that peak seasons for gastropods and bivalves are April, May, June and August at Sakthikulangara-Neendakara Fisheries Harbours (Fig. 2).

All the identified specimens were deposited in the Designated National Repository (DNR), ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, India. Since there are no shellcraft industries located nearby, the ornamental shell materials were transported in lorries to shellcraft industries and small scale cottage industries located at Rameswaram, Tirunelveli and Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu.