

## A new record of deep-sea caridean shrimp *Heterocarpus chani* (Decapoda: Pandalidae) from the southern coast of India

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*Heterocarpus* genus belong to the family Pandalidae (Decapoda, Caridea) which are common in deeper waters. Some species are of commercial value or fishery potential by their large size. They are characterized by rostrum armed with teeth on both margins; carapace with postrostral carina extending nearly to posterior margin and with 1 or more longitudinal lateral carinae; pereopods with 2<sup>nd</sup> pair distinctly unequal and dissimilar. The species *Heterocarpus chani* was recorded from various fishing harbours on the south coast (Sakthikulangara Fishing Harbour; Kalamuku Landing centre (Kerala) and the Thoothukudi and Nagapattinam Fisheries Harbours Tamil Nadu) from the deep-sea catches taken at depth of 200 - 350 m. The distinguishing characters of *Heterocarpus chani* Li, 2006 are as follows:

Rostrum extending beyond scaphocerite, curved upwards above antennular peduncle, dorsally armed with 8 or 9 teeth including 5 teeth on carapace posterior to orbital margin, ventrally armed with 13- 15 teeth along entire length, tooth size progressively reduced distally, abdomen unarmed posteriomediaally on all somites, third somite with blunt longitudinal dorsomedian carina, with lateral margins slightly convex; pleura of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> somites with acute posteroventral tooth; telson with 4 pairs of dorsolateral; third maxilliped stout, extending beyond scaphocerite, exopod reduced but distinct and strap-like epipod present.



Fig. 1. *Heterocarpus chani*

Body orange-red, with dorsal parts more orange-red while ventral parts including pleopods and tail fan generally reddish. Eyes black-brown. Flagella reddish. Anterior 2 pereopods varied from reddish to pinkish. Posterior 3 pereopods with dactylus and distal portion of propodus always reddish, carpus and distal portion of merus as well as proximal portion of propodus always pinkish to light pink. Eggs are dark green.

**Distribution:** Southern South China Sea, Bohol and Sulu Seas of the Phillipines, at depths of 382-888 m, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, India at depths of 200-350 m.

This species is closely related to *Heterocarpus gibbosus* Bate, 1888. The exopod of third maxilliped of *H. chani* is rudimentary while that of *H. gibbosus* is well developed. It can be distinguished from *H. gibbosus* by having a broader dorsomedian carina on the third abdominal somite.