

A NEW RECORD OF MARINE WOOD-BORER (MOLLUSCA
: TEREDINIDAE) FROM WATERS OFF BOMBAY

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ABSTRACT

The occurrence of *Teredora princesae* (Sivickis) has been reported for the first time from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Bombay. A brief description of the pallet and distribution of this species is presented.

Key-words: *Teredora princesae*, offshore waters, Bombay High.

The studies on marine wood-boring organisms in India are restricted to selected areas along the east and west coasts and have been carried out so far by exposing timber panels from jetties and harbour walls. However, no work has so far been done in the offshore waters. During exposure trials using untreated panels of *Mangifera indica* (mango wood) from an offshore platform located about 160 km. off Bombay, quite a few specimens of wood-boring organisms were collected from various depths extending up to 75m. One of these forms, *Teredora princesae* (Sivickis), has been conclusively identified and is reported here. Its occurrence has been reported earlier only up to Mangalore along the west coast of India and the surveys of earlier workers along the coast from Goa to Cambay (Anil and Wagh, 1982; Karande, 1968; Palekar, Santhakumaran and Pal, 1964; Santhakumaran, Udaya Bhaskar and Srinivasan, 1985 and Wagh and Anil, 1983) did not indicate its occurrence. The present collection being its first locality record from the west coast north of Mangalore and that too from offshore waters, details on the species are presented in this note.

Diagnosis: Pallet solid and calcareous. Blade broad oval in outline with a convex outer face and concave inner face (Fig. 1). Outside of blade with a deep thumb-nail like depression marked with concentric growth lines. Stalk short extending only upto the base of the depression.

Material examined: A single specimen collected from 2 m depth in Bombay High. Total length of the pallet is 5.5 mm, with the stalk measuring 2mm

The species has been reported earlier from east coast of Africa, Red Sea Persian Gulf, Pacific Islands, south east Asia, Indonesia New Guinea, Philippine Islands, Hawaiian and Midway Islands (Turner, 1966). From the west coast of



Outer View

Inner View

Fig. 1. The pallet of *Teredora princepsae* collected from offshore waters (13 x)

India its distribution has been reported so far only from Cochin (Saraswati, 1964) and Mangalore (Dharmaraj and Nair, 1981). Occurrence of this species in the Bombay High area extends its distribution further northwards and necessitates detailed and extensive survey along the Konkan coast.

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