

## Short Communication

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**MACROBRACHIUM IDAE (HELLER), A NEW RECORD OF FRESH WATER PRAWN FROM PAKISTAN**

M. Yaqoob

Directorate of Fisheries, Pakistan Secretariate, Block-50, Karachi, Pakistan.

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## INTRODUCTION

*M. idae* is a medium sized fresh water prawn, which has been recorded for the first time from Pakistan. Several specimens of this species collected from the backwater of the Indus, near Sujawal Bridge, Thatta, on 6.6.1983 include males, females and buried females measuring 60 to 118 mm in total length. The males have long second thoracic legs and look similar to *M. malcolmsonii* (the giant river prawn), but they are not so large in body size as *M. malcolmsonii*. Females have smaller second thoracic legs than males. The colour of the eggs was yellow.

Pond culture study of *M. idae* revealed that their wild juveniles can be grown successfully in Sind. They grew from 0.6 g. (40 mm) to 24 g. (100 mm) in 167 days, while cultured in a small garden pond and fed on ground yellow corn once a day.

## DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS

The rostrum (Fig. 1A) extends as far as, or a little behind the distal margin of the antennal scale. The rostral formula is 10-13/3-5 (usually 11/4). There is a gap between the epigastric tooth and the upper rostral teeth proper. An antennal and a hepatic spine are present on the carapace.

The second thoracic legs are sexually dimorphic. In males, they are 1.5 times as long as the body and covered with tubercles (Fig. 1B). The carpus is the longest joint. The fingers are long and slender but much shorter than the palm; their tips cross each other. The whole surface of the dactylus is covered with pubescence, while only the inner margin of the pollex has pubescence, which is in tufts. Proximal portions of the dactylus and pollex have two and one each respectively on their inner margins.

The second thoracic legs are shorter than the body in females, as illustrated in Fig. 1B'.

The telson (Fig. 1C) is tuberculated dorsally. It termi-

nates on a central spine, lateral to which two pairs of spines are present. Two pairs of spines are also present on the dorsal surface.

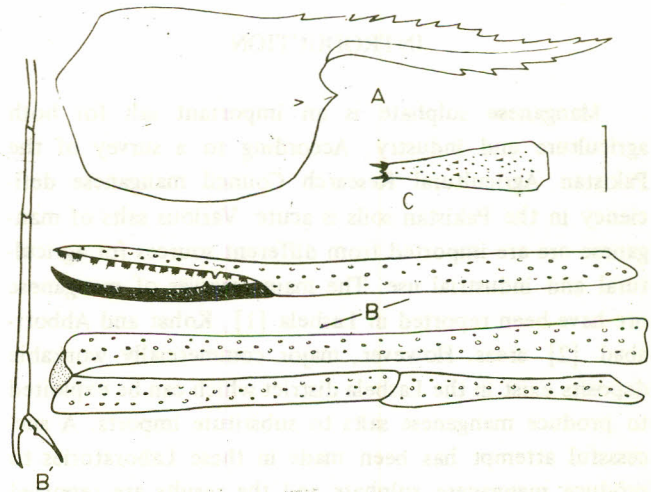


Fig. 1. *Macrobrachium idae* (Heller) (A) Carapace; (B) Second thoracic leg, male; (B') Second thoracic leg, female; (C) Telson; (Scale line = 5 mm)

## DISTRIBUTION

*M. idae* has been previously recorded from Madagascar, Dar-es-Salam, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Mauritius, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Sumatra, Java, New Guinea, Borneo and the Philippines [1]. It is now being recorded for the first time from Pakistan.

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## REFERENCES

1. J.R. Henderson, and G. Matthai, on certain species of *Palaemon* from South India, Rec. Indian Mus., 5, 227 (1910).