

Order ECHINOIDA

Family ECHINOMETRIDAE

19. *Echinometra mathaei* (de Blainville)

Material : Galathea Bay, 11–13.02.2002, two specs.; Prem Nalla, 20.02.2002, two specs.; Poonam Nalla, 22.02.2003, two specs.; Vijaya Nagar, 02.03.2002, two specs.; Lakshmi Nagar, 07.03.2002, one spec.; Pigeon Island, 17.03.2002, one spec.; Alexandra Bay, 17.02.2003, one spec.; Dongi Nalla, 20.01.2003, one spec.; Keechad Nalla, 16.02.2003, one spec.; Magar Nalla, 21.01.2003, three specs.; Pigeon Island, 12.02.2003, one spec.; Poonam Nalla, 26.01.2003, one spec.; Prem Nalla, 23.01.2003, three specs.; Sippy Nalla, 22.01.2003, one spec.; Swarup Nalla, 27.01.2003, one spec.; Vijaya Nagar, 25.01.2003, two specs.

20. *Echinostrephus molaris* (de Blainville)

Material : Vijaya Nagar, 25.01.2003, one spec.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

Order CLYPEASTEROIDA

Family ARACHNOIDIDAE

21. *Arachnoides placenta* (Linnaeus)

Material : Campbell Bay, 12.01.2003, three specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

Class HOLOTHUROIDEA

Order ASPIDOCHIROTIDA

Family HOLOTHURIIDAE

22. *Actinopyga echinites* (Jaeger)

Material : Sastry Nagar, 31.12.2000, two specs.; Near Dillon Nalla, 06.01.2001, one spec.; Indira Point, 15.01.2001, one spec.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

23. *Holothuria (Acanthotrapeza) pyxis* Selenka

Material : Galathea Bay, 12.01.2001, one spec.; Vijaya Nagar, 24.01.2001, three specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

24. *Holothuria (Lessonothuria) pardalis* Selenka

Material : Near Prem Bahadur Nalla, 04.02.2001, two specs.

25. *Holothuria (Metriatyla) scabra* Jaeger

Material : Sastry Nagar, 31.12.2000, one spec.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

26. *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* (Selenka)

Material : Vijaya Nagar, 24.01.2001, two specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

27. *Holothuria (Platyperona) difficilis* Semper

Material : Near Prem Bahadur Nalla, 02.02.2001, two specs.

28. *Holothuria (Thymiosycia) arenicola* Semper

Material : Near Dillon Nalla, 06.01.2001, two specs.

29. *Holothuria (Thymiosycia) hilla* Lesson

Material : Galathea Bay, 14.01.2001, two specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

Family LABIDODEMATIDAE

30. *Labidodemas rugosum* (Ludwig)

Material : Near Magar Nalla, 05.01.2001, three specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

Family STICHOPODIDAE

31. *Stichopus variegatus* Semper

Material : Near Magar Nalla, 23.01.2001, two specs.; Vijaya Nagar, 24.01.2001, two specs.; Indira Point, 15.01.2001, three specs.

Order DENDROCHIROTIDA

Family PHYLLOPHORIDAE

32. *Afrocucumis africana* (Semper)

Material : Near Magar Nalla, 23.01.2001, two specs.

Remark : The species is newly recorded from Nicobar group of islands.

Order APODIDA

Family SYNAPTIDAE

33. *Synapta maculata* (Sluiter)

Material : Sastry Nagar, 31.12.2000, one spec.; Near Dillon Nalla, 24.01.2001, one spec.

SUMMARY

Recent collections from the Great Nicobar Island consisted of 33 species of echinoderms including seven species of Asteroidea, eight species of Ophiuroidea, six species of Echinoidea and 12 species of Holothuroidea. Of these, only six species, namely *Dactylosaster cylindricus* (Asteroidea), *Ophiocoma dentata*, *Ophiocoma erinaceus*, *Ophiocoma scolopendrina*, *Ophiomastix annulosa* (Ophiuroidea), and *Echinometra mathaei* (Echinoidea), are among the 18 species known from earlier reports. The total number of echinoderm species is 45. The 33 species collected recently have been briefly reported with details of localities. Some of these are recorded for the first time from Nicobar group of islands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are grateful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and to the authorities of Annamalai University for providing facilities and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for extending financial assistance through the research project for assessment of marine biological resources of the Great Nicobar Island. Thanks are also due to Chief Wildlife Warden, Port Blair, Divisional Forest Officer, Campbell Bay and authorities of Coast Guard for logistic support and Mr. R. Ranjan, for several courtesies.

REFERENCES

- Clark, A. M. and Rowe, F. W. E. 1971. *Monograph of shallow-water Indo-West Pacific echinoderms*. British Museum (Natural History), London. Publication Number 680, 238 pp.
- James, D. B. 1987a. Studies on Indian echinoderms – 7. On a new family Labidodematidae (Holothuroidea : Aspidochirotida) with a detailed description of *Labidodemas rugosum* (Ludwig) from the Andamans. *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, **23**(1 & 2) : 82-85 (1981).
- James, D. B. 1987b. Studies on Indian echinoderms – 11. On *Protankyra tuticorenensis* sp. nov. and other apodous holothurians from the Indian Seas. *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, **24**(1 & 2) : 92-105 (1982).
- James, D. B. 1987c. Studies on Indian echinoderms – 15. On *Psolus mannarensis* sp. nov. and other dendrochirots from the Indian Seas. *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, **26**(1 & 2) : 109-122 (1984).