

RECOVERY OF A LEUCOSID CRAB *NURSIA ABBREVIATA* BELL, 1855 FROM ARABIAN SEA FISH

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On two occasions *Nursia abbreviata* Bell, 1855 has been recovered from the stomachs of *Batrachus grunniens* (Linnaeus, 1758) caught with commercial fish. *Nursia abbreviata* has been previously recorded from Karachi by Alcock (1896). The present specimens afford the first subsequent record of the species from the region, and are represented by only two males recovered from fish stomachs. The only other species of the genus from Pakistan is *N. rubifera* Muller, 1886 which is common in shore collections (Tirmizi and Kazmi, 1988).

A brief description of the present material is given below. The larger male recovered on November, 1989 was partially disintegrated, it could, however, be identified and the abdomen was illustrated. The abbreviations used are cl. carapace length, cb. carapace breadth.

The material is deposited in the collections of the Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre.

Nursia abbreviata Bell, 1855 (Fig. 1A-G)

Nursia abbreviata Bell, 1855: 308, pl.34; fig.5; Alcock, 1896: 184; Henderson, 1893: 404; Hale, 1927:103, figs.26 and 27; McNeill, 1953: 89; Chhapgar, 1969: 610, pl.1, fig.d & e; Campbell and Stephenson, 1970: 249, fig.10; Dai and Siliang, 1991: 68, fig.30(2).
nec Stephensen, 1945: 68, fig.6A.

MATERIAL & MEASUREMENTS

Karachi Fish Harbour, November, 1989. 1 male, cl.8.0 mm, cb.9.2 mm; 9th May, 1992, 1 male, cl.7.2 mm, cb.9.0 mm. (MRC Cat No.BRAC.514)

REMARKS

The two males under study are slightly smaller than those reported from Karachi (Alcock, 1896) and Bombay (Chhapgar, 1969). In other respects the specimens agree well with the existing descriptions.

As can be seen the carapace (Fig.1A) has its border beaded and cut into seven lobes, the arrangement of granules is also the same as described by Alcock (1896:184). The size, shape and armature of the chelipeds (Figs.1B and C) agree with the description given by Alcock (1896:185) and Chhapgar (1969:610).

Abdomen of the male (Fig.1D) has protuberances, as illustrated.

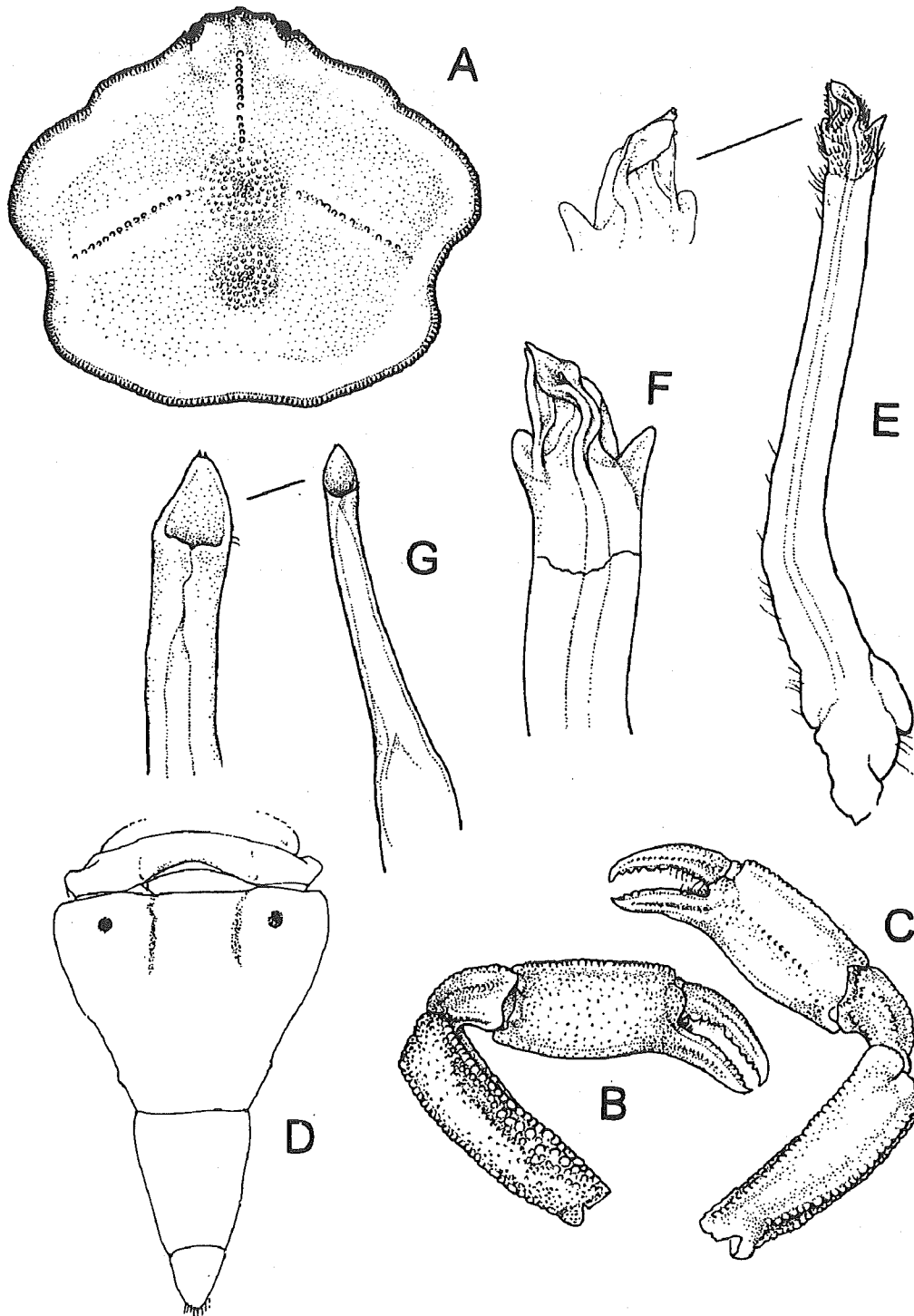


Fig. 1. *Nursia abbreviata* Bell, 1855. male cl.7.2mm, A. carapace, dorsal view; B. cheliped, outer view; C. same, inner view; D. abdomen, male cl.8.0mm; E. right first gonopod, sternal view; F. tip of the same, further enlarged; abdominal view; G, second gonopod.

The first male gonopod (Fig. 1 E) has basically the same structure, as described by earlier authors except Stephensen (1945) when the tip has four teeth, as already pointed out by Dai and Siliang (1991:69). It can be seen that the tip (Fig. 1F) is tubular with an apical opening and two subdistal lobes: The outer lobe is pointed whereas the inner lobe is rounded. The second gonopod is minute and simple (Fig. 1G).

DISTRIBUTION

Indo-Pacific: Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia; Hainan Island, China; Gulf of Martaban, Myanmar; Coromandel Coast, Gulf of Manaar, Bombay, India; Karachi, Pakistan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Dr. Holthuis, National Museum of Natural History, the Netherlands for kindly reading the manuscript.

Financial assistance through US grant No. N00014-86-G-0229 is acknowledged.

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(Received: 28 September 1993)