

## OBSERVATION ON THE HOST SPECIFICITY OF ISOPOD PARASITE NEROCILA SP. FROM ANDHRA COAST

During investigations on clupeoid fishes of the Andhra coast, it has been observed that the parasite *Nerocila* sp. is found on *Ilisha melastoma* (Schneider, 1801); the place of infection being the gill chamber. Meenakshisundaram (1945) has recorded the host specificity of this parasite from Kutch on the West coast. While examining the landings he found this parasite on *Ilisha indica* (= *I. melastoma*) but not on *I. filigera*. It is further confirmed that the parasite is specific in the selection of its host, because it has not been found on other species like *I. whiteheadi*

from Kakinada, *I. elongata* from Masulipatnam, *I. megaloptera* from Visakhapatnam and Suryalanka and *I. filigera* from Gollapalem and Masulipatnam. In all, 300 specimens of the above species were examined. The parasite has been found on 9 out of 25 specimens of *I. melastoma*.

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1. Meenakshisundaram, P. T., J. Mar. biol. Ass. India, 1965, 7 (1), **202**.