

OCCURRENCE OF THE BENTHIC GYMNO-  
PLEURAN CRAB *NOTOPUS DORSIPES*  
(FABRICIUS) IN THE NORTHERN  
ARABIAN SEA

DURING the Oceanographic Expedition on I.N.S. Darshak in the Northern Arabian Sea (December 1973 to May 1974) a few male specimens of the Brachyuran crustacean *Notopus dorsipes* (Fabricius, 1798) were collected (Fig. 1) from depths varying from 84 to 100 m at lat. 20° 44' N and long. 69° 23' E. Its first record was by Alcock in 1896<sup>1</sup> from the Andamans and off the southern Malabar Coast and this is the second record in the Indian seas which helps to bridge the gap between the earlier records in the Red Sea<sup>2</sup> and Southern Malabar Coast<sup>1</sup>.



FIG. 1. *Notopus dorsipes* (Fabricius, 1798), dorsal view.

This species has also been reported from off Western Australia<sup>3</sup> and from the Pacific Ocean, i.e., from the East Indies-Siboga Expedition<sup>4</sup> and Japan<sup>5</sup>.

The specimen obtained agree well with the general description and figures given by earlier authors, i.e., Alcock, 1896, p. 290 (description); Laurie, 1915, p. 429 (amendment of Alcock's description), Ihle,

1918, p. 294 (Syn. and refs.); Yokoya, 1933<sup>6</sup>, p. 112; Sakai, 1937, p. 175, pl. xvi, fig. 1 and 1940<sup>7</sup>, p. 40; Holthuis, 1959<sup>8</sup>, p. 108, 1962<sup>9</sup>, p. 55; Utinomi, 1960<sup>10</sup>, p. 73; pl. 37, fig. 2. Tyndale-Biscoe and George, 1962, p. 92 (diagnostic features). The genus *Notopus* de Haan, 1841 of the family Raninidae includes three valid species, viz., *Notopus dorsipes* (Fabricius, 1798), *N. ovalis* Henderson, 1888 and *N. misakiensis* Sakai, 1937. *Notopus ovalis* Henderson has been recorded from Japan and Little ki island and from Australia and *Notopus misakiensis* Sakai is known only from Japan.

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