A NOTE ON *CALLIANASSA MAXIMA* M. EDWARDS, (DECAPODA)

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Callianassa maxima was created by M. Edwards[1] from a single chela obtained in a sub-fossil condition from Siam. Later, Kemp[2] described in detail a complete specimen obtained from some part of Madras. His collection also included a large chela and two young specimens collected from the Chilka lake. Thus the description of this species is based mainly on a single complete specimen from Madras.

The present collection consists of a single specimen obtained from the Kayamkulam lake (Central Travancore). On comparing it with the description given by Kemp (*op. cit.*) the following differences are noticed :-

1. The distal extremity of the third segment of the antennular peduncle (fig. 5) reaches far beyond the middle of the terminal segment of the antennal peduncle.
2. *The antennal flagellum is about four times the length of its peduncle.*
3. The inferior edge of the ischium of the larger cheliped (fig. 1) is spiny along three fourths of its entire length and has sixteen prominent spines, and the proximal part is distinctly crest like as in the merus.
4. The merus has no crenulations on the proximal part of its upper border. The inferior border is crest-like and spiny throughout. The four proximal spines are very large and the first of these is a double spine.
5. The dactylus has a bilobed crest at the base, a middle large tooth and a series of ten teeth behind the tip. The tip is pointed and curved and overlaps the fixed finger to a considerable extent.

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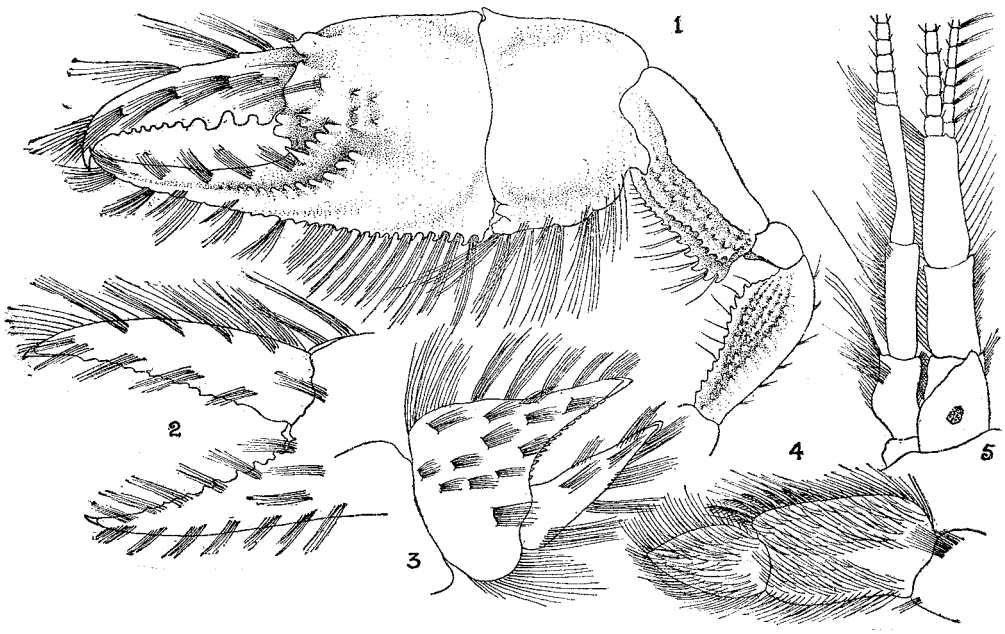
1. Edwards, A. M., *Nouv. Arch. Mus. Paris*, VI, p. 97, (1870)
2. Kemp, S. *Mem. Ind. Mus.*, V, p. 252, (1915)

6. Starting from the inner base of the propodus and projecting into the gape of the fingers is a prominent, pointed spine situated a little below the blunt serrated lobe of the gape.
7. In the smaller cheliped the merus is only as long as the ischium and the dactylus is slender and slightly longer than the palm. The inner margin of the fingers is finely toothed, the fixed finger with 12-14 proximal teeth and the dactylus with 14–16 in the middle.
8. In the second peraeopod, the fixed finger is toothed basally. About 13 teeth are visible and they increase in size successively towards the tip. The proximal ones are narrow and pointed whereas the distal are broad and blunt.
9. The penultimate segment of the fourth peraeopod possesses among its ordinary setae a few large, dagger shaped, barbed ones.



Callianassa maxima M. Edw.

1. Large cheliped, external view x 10
2. Small cheliped, external view x 10
3. Second peræopod, tip enlarged x 10
4. Fourth peræopod, tip enlarged x 10
5. Side view of head x 10

Measurements.

Total length	.... 46·0 mm.
Length of first abdominal segment	.... 7·0 „
Length of second abdominal segment	.... 8·0 „
Length of third abdominal segment	.... 4·0 „
Length of fourth abdominal segment	.... 4·0 „
Length of fifth abdominal segment	.... 5·0 „
Length of sixth abdominal segment	.... 7·0 „
Length of telson	.... 3·5 „
Breadth of telson	.... 4·5 „
Length of uropod	.... 7·0 „
Antenna	
Length of peduncle	.... 5·0 „
Length of flagellum	....20·0 „
Antennule	
Length of peduncle	.... 4·0 „
Length of flagellum	.... 7·0 „
Large cheliped	
Length of ischium	.... 6·0 „
Length of merus	.... 7·0 „
Breadth of merus	.... 3·0 „
Length of carpus	.... 5·0 „
Breadth of carpus	.... 7·0 „
Length of propodus	.... 7·5 „
Breadth of propodus	.... 7·5 „
Length of fixed finger	.... 7·0 „
Length of dactylus	.... 9·5 „
Small cheliped	
Length of ischium	.... 5·5 „
Length of merus	.... 5·0 „
Length of carpus	.... 7·0 „
Breadth of carpus	.... 2·5 „
Length of propodus	.... 3·0 „
Length of dactylus	.... 4·0 „

The large cheliped in the present specimen resembles more that of the Chilka lake specimen than the Madras specimen described by Kemp, in the presence of the double tooth, the uniform dentition of the inferior

border of the merus, the more prominent granulation of the distal part of the propodus and the greatly over-lapping dactylus. However it differs from both the examples in possessing ten teeth behind the tip of the dactylus as against four in the Chilka lake specimen and seven in the Madras specimen.

The present specimen was caught from one of the Fish Culture Ponds of the Estuarine Fisheries Research Station, where it was found resting in a shallow depression in the mud close to the edge of the pond. The soil in the locality consists of a mixture of dark mud and fine sand which is very similar to the habitat described by Kemp (*op. cit.*)