

M.S.54. SASIDHARAN PILLAI, N.K.—Studies on the copepod fish parasites of Kerala coast—1985—Dr. M. Shahul Hameed

The thesis presents mainly the systematics of the copepod fish parasites of Kerala Coast. Fish parasites for this study were collected from different Fish landing centres of the Kerala coast. Majority of the species were recorded from Cochin region. About 70 species of the parasites were recorded from the Cochin region. About 70 species of the parasites were recorded from the marine fishes, both elasmobranchs and teleosts fishes. The fish parasites so far collected include the suborders, Cyclopoida, Caligoida, and Lernaepodia. Identification keys of the collected specimens were prepared and the species with insufficient description were redescribed in detail. Female specimens were taken for the purpose of identification.

The specimens that were identified as new species were studied in detail and ascertained their identity beyond doubt. New host records and distribution records were also noticed and described.

The present study also includes the host-parasite relationship exhibited by this group of parasites. During the course of the systematic studies interesting observations regarding the relationship of copepod parasites with host fishes were noticed.

Besides, the frequency of occurrence and distribution was also included. The present study also includes the host specificity nature exhibited by the members of this group of parasites.