



Description of *Sarsilatona* cf. *fernandoi* (Rane, 1983) (Crustacea: Cladocera: Sididae) found in the south of Vietnam

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Abstract

The representatives of the rare genus *Sarsilatona* close to originally poorly described *S. fernandoi* (Rane, 1983) from Central India (Madhya Pradesh State) are studied on the basis of female specimens from two localities in the south of Vietnam. Their exact species assignment remains to be vague due to inability to investigate the type material. The studied specimens differ from all other species of the genus in presence of only small denticles, not setules, on the sensory seta of antennules. *S. cf. fernandoi* resembles *S. serricauda* (Sars, 1901) in presence of large dorsal postabdominal outgrowths but differs from the latter in shorter antennules, lack of a large prominence on the posterior side of antennal basipodite, presence of setules, not small denticles, on the ventral valve margins, more numerous anal teeth in each cluster, and less numerous and thicker clusters of spinules near postero-ventral valve margins. The representatives of *S. fernandoi* s.l. seem to be widely distributed in tropical Asia, from India to Vietnam, preferring small water bodies. Superficially similar representatives of the genus from Africa probably belong to a yet undescribed new species.

Key words: *Sarsilatona*, tropical Asia, detailed morphological description, geographical distribution, types of water bodies

Introduction

The Asian representatives of the genus *Sarsilatona* were first described by Rane (1983) under the name *Latonopsis fernandoi* from samples collected in two small water bodies (Gorah Tank and Balsagar Tank) in Central India (Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh State). In his description, the author did not indicate any really distinctive morphological features but only referred to a larger body size of the studied specimens in comparison with other species of the genus and to some other features depending on size (large number of clusters of anal teeth and teeth in each cluster, more numerous antennal setae, etc.).

In the course of revision of *Latonopsis*-like forms, the new genus *Sarsilatona* was established with the inclusion of “*L. fernandoi*” in it (Korovchinsky 1985, 1992) but without indication of reliable diagnostic traits of the species due to inadequate original description and drawings.

The following reviews of Indian Cladocera (Fernando & Kanduru 1984; Sharma & Michael 1987; Michael & Sharma 1988) did not mention “*L. fernandoi*” at all but Sharma and Sharma (1990) briefly revised the type material from Rane, and synonymized this taxon with *S. serricauda* (Sars, 1901) originally described from Brazil.

Further explorations of Asian cladocerans did not reveal the representatives of *Sarsilatona* apart of one unpublished manuscript (Sa-Ardrit 2002) recording “*S. serricauda*” in Southern Thailand. Presented drawing confirms the generic position of the taxon.

All this very fragmentary information on the “*L. fernandoi* – *S. serricauda*” – like forms in tropical Asia made them enigmatical and deserving reinvestigation on the basis of a sufficient material.

The recently collected specimens by Dr. A. Y.Sinev (M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University) in small water bodies in the south of Vietnam have allowed describing the Asian sarsilatonas in more detail. In particular, details of mandibles of the genus are described here for the first time.

The attempt of the author to get the information on the type material of *S. fernandoi* from the National Collection of Zoological Survey of India (Kolkata, India) even photographs of some morphological structures, was unsuccessful. This prevents the exact species assignment of specimens under consideration.