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## **Research Article**

## DESCRIPTION OF APPENDAGES CHARACTERIZING SEX DIFFERENTIATION IN HIMALAYAN PRAWN, MACROBRACHIUM DAYANUM

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#### **ARTICLE INFO**

#### ABSTRACT

#### Article History:

Received 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 Received in revised form 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 Accepted 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 Published online 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 The present communication is a small component of the study pertaining to the investigation on characteristic pattern of breeding dress of Himalayan Prawn *Macrobrachium dayanum* (Henderson 1893). During the sexually active phase, animal develops various morphometric characters that differentiate i) Reproductive active form from the inactive form and ii) Males from female. A special emphasis has been laid on the identification of characteristic feature like Appendix masculina, petasma and thelycum, brood chamber etc.

#### Key Words:

Breeding dress, Macrobrachium *dayanum*, Brood chamber, Appendix masculina

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Macrobrachium dayanum is a fresh water commercially important decapod (fig1). Decapod crustaceans represent a large diverse biological group with significant potential as aquaculture resource. The prawns along with other species provide the animal protein to a great number of people. This fact has been very well established that M. dayanum enjoys a culturable status (Jhingran 1991) and nutritionally stands at par with other culturable fishes and prawn species (Langer et al. 2004). However, a detailed study of their breeding dress characterization which is a prominent feature of this species has not been studied so far. The market value of M. dayanum is high and is highly preferred by the consumers as whole as well as dry powder (parween et al., 2003). The analysis of secondary sexual characters for sexual dimorphism in crustaceans began with Hartnoll (1978) who studied the relative growth of certain body structures for different brachyuran species. A number of studies on Macrobrachium dayanum in Jammu has so far been carried pertaining to their different aspects viz occurrence (Langer et al. 2002), nutrition (Langer et al., 2004a,b; Langer et al. 2008), food preferences (Bakhtiyar,2008); gonadal cycle (Kailoo, 1984; Jyoti and Kailoo,1985;Malik, 2006;Sharma 2006; Samyal, 2007 ;Kant et al. 2016); fecundity, length weight relationships(Langer et al., 2013); morphometry (Langer et al. 2009); taxonomy and population dynamics (Chalotra 2002, Sharma 2013); colouration (kant 2014).

Sexual dimorphism is used to differentiate the males and females along with mature and immature population in many decapods, which shows sexual dimorphism in maturity stages (Pinheiro & Fransozo, 1998).

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The live specimens of *Macrobrachium dayanum* were collected from their natural habitat in Gho-Manhasan stream of Jammu city (32 67° latitude N), (74 79 longitude E). Collection was made with the help of sweep net during morning hours. The Gho-Manhasan stream was chosen because of easy access and availability of prawn in abundance. The entrapped specimens were transferred from sweep net to buckets filled with stream water. The buckets were then brought to departmental laboratory where they were kept at room temperature for acclimatization and fed on artificial feed. Numerical & morphometric measurements were made.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

On the basis of monthly morphometric data it was observed that males attain larger body size in terms of length increment as well as weight parameters as compared to females. The maximum size observed in males was 6.0cm while in females it was 5.8cm to the maximum. The mean size range data as observed is shown in table 1 and graph 1. Similar results have also been reported by Koshy (1971), Mantellato & Barbosa (2005) in *Macrobrachium brasiilense*, Langer *et al.* (2009) & Sarkar *et al.* (2012) in *Macrobrachium dayanum* and Bauer *et al.* (2014) in *Cinteorhynchus shrimp* sps. Contrasting results

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however, are on record wherein females have been reported to attain mean larger size than males as has been witnessed by Paschoal *et al.* (2013) in *Palaemon panadaliforms* in north east of Brazil, Yamada *et al.* (2007) in *Trachysalambria curvirostris* in Tokyo bay & Rosenthal (2012) in shrimp *Betaeus lilianae*.

The present study is in accordance with the earlier findings of King & Moffitt (1984) in tropical deep water shrimps, Almeida *et al.* (2010) in fresh water shrimp *Atya scabra* from brazil. Nagamine & Knight (1980), Sandifer & Smith (1985) came with the similar findings in Malaysian prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and some fresh water prawns.

Table 1 showing monthly variations in size (in cm) of male and female of Macrobrachium dayanum during the study period.

Month	Male			Female		
	Minima	Maxima	Mean(SD)	Minima	Maxima	Mean(SD)
Jan.	5.4	6.0	$5.74 \pm 0.24$	4.4	5.7	$5.2 \pm 0.40$
Feb.	4.9	5.8	$5.44 \pm 0.37$	4.3	5.5	$5.28 \pm 0.31$
Mar.	4.6	5.7	$5.2 \pm 0.48$	4.7	5.6	$5.14 \pm 0.43$
Apr.	4.4	5.9	$5.18 \pm 0.70$	4.4	5.6	$5.12 \pm 0.69$
May	4.5	5.8	$5.36 \pm 0.53$	4.5	5.5	$4.98 \pm 0.54$
Jun.	4.8	5.6	$5.28 \pm 0.31$	4.7	5.5	$4.86 \pm 0.40$
July	5.4	6.0	$5.74 \pm 0.24$	4.4	5.3	$5.14 \pm 0.36$
Aug.	5.0	5.8	$5.46 \pm 0.32$	4.3	5.6	$4.94 \pm 0.43$
Sept.	4.5	5.7	$5.16 \pm 0.49$	4.2	5.8	$5.04 \pm 0.46$
Oct.	4.8	5.7	$5.3 \pm 0.33$	4.5	5.6	$5.18 \pm 0.40$
Nov.	4.7	5.7	$5.2 \pm 0.43$	4.8	5.6	$4.88 \pm 0.54$
Dec.	4.5	5.7	$5.2 \pm 0.48$	4.6	5.6	$5.16 \pm 0.61$



Graph 1 Showing monthly variations in mean length of male and female Macrobrachium dayanum

Appendix masculina is the most prominent and consistent secondary sexual character for males (fig 2). Appendix masculina, a slender structure adjacent to appendix interna on the median side of endopodite occurs on the second pleopod of males where as it is absent in females. It is located between the endopodite and appendix interna.



Fig 1 Showing specimen of Macrobrachium dayanum

Present findings on *M. dayanum* is first report in this regard.

The petasma in males and thelycum in females represent the principal sexual characteristics (fig 3&4). The petasma in males is present in the abdominal region and formed by the modification of the right and left endopodite of the first pair of pleopods.



Fig 2 Showing Appendix Masculina



Fig 3 Showing Petasma in Male

It is an elongated structure with expanded middle portion while the thelycum in female is a small anterior median longitudinal ridge between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periopods. Similar results were also reported by Babu & Manissery (2008); Burukovskjii (1980); Nagamine & knight (1980); King and Moffitt (1984); Correa & Theil (2003); Unis & Erkan(2012). The role of petasma and thelycum are not understood properly and presumably petasma is of significance in insemination Bauer (1996).



Fig 4 Showing Thelycum in Female

Brood chamber is exclusively sexual dimorphic character for females formed by the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> abdominal pleurae (fig 5). Brood chamber is formed by the widely spaced pleopods in females while in males pleopods are closely arranged as brood chamber has no role to play in males and hence absent. Similar results were observed by Antheunisse *et al.* (1968), Nagamine & Knight (1980), & Habashy (2010).



Fig 5 Showing Brood chamber in female

The basal segments of pleopods, especially first three pairs were provided with enlarged soft long setae called ovigerous setae which bear the eggs. These setae are short or absent in males but present in numerous amount during breeding season in females. Some of the ovigerous setae are not permanently present as they appear in numerous number during breeding season only in mature females (fig 6). Similar results were observed by Rajyalakshmi(1980) in Macrobrachium malcolmsonii, Nagamine and knight (1980) in Macrobrachium rosenbergii, Bauer (1986) in shrimp Thor Manningi; Yamane et al (2003) in Macrobrachium nipponense; Habashy (2010) in Macrobrachium rosenbergii. Similar studies in Macrobrachium dayanum are however, lacking and therefore undertaken during present investigation.



Fig 6 Microscopic view showing Ovigerous Setae holding eggs in Female

Thus various morphometric parameters which characterize the sexual dimorphism in *M.dayanum* are:

- Large sized males as compared to female.
- Presence of appendix masculina associated with appendix interna of second pleopod
- Presence of petasma and thelycum in male and females respectively.
- Formation of brood chamber by 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pleopod in females for bearing developing eggs.
- Presence of large number of setae especially on first three pair of pleopods to bear eggs during spawning season.

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