

## (II)

**OCCURRENCE OF FRESH WATER MEDUSA - *LIMNOCNIDA INDICA*  
ANNANDALE IN PERIYAR LAKE, KERALA, SOUTH INDIA**

Periyar Lake in the Periyar Tiger Reserve on the Western Ghats in South India (9°10'N, 77°E) was formed by the construction of a Dam across the Mullaperiyar river a hundred years ago. It is about 900m above msl and has an area of about 25 km<sup>2</sup>. Very little study has been done on the limnology of the lake. As per Project Aqua (IBP Handbook No. 21, IUCN occasional Paper No. 2) nothing is known about the lake and very little biological studies have been done here. A limnological study with special reference to the biodiversity of the lake is hence very much needed.

The purpose of this note is to report the abundance of fresh water Medusa *Limnocyclus indica* Annandale in the

Periyar lake. In the month of December '93, February '94 and again from December '94 to February '95 blooms of fresh water Medusa were observed in the lake near the Mullaperiyar Dam and at the shutter of the Dam near the Checkpost. The fresh water Medusa was collected and its occurrence was reported by Darling (1935) who only mentions its generic name. Later Jones (1950) recorded this Medusa from stagnant tank about 32 km North of Periyar lake near Pampadumpara. He however was of the opinion that the Medusa in Periyar would be none other than *Limnocyclus indica* Annandale. The interesting discovery of the fresh water Medusa in Periyar lake indicates the potentials of the lake for further limnological studies. Further study on the distribution and life cycle of this Medusa would be worth undertaking.

**References**

- Darling (1935) *Nature* **135**, (3404) ; 151  
Jones (1950) *J. Bom. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **49**, 788 - 801.

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