

The occurrence and description of male *Daphnia similis* Claus, 1876 (Cladocera, Daphnidae)

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ABSTRACT

The occurrence of male of *Daphnia similis*, a Cladoceran crustacean was recorded from the sub-tropical region of Jammu, India and described for the first time thus completing the description of the species.

Key words: *Daphnia similis*, Cladoceran crustacean, Jammu.

INTRODUCTION

Of the ninety species of Indian Cladocera reported so far, the aspects of the biology of six species have been investigated from this country (Michael and Sharma, 1982). All these studies are restricted to females. The biology of male *Daphnia lumholtzi* Sars. has been reported for the first time from India by Das *et al.*, (1981). Afterwards Venkataraman and Krishnaswamy ((1984) reported the occurrence and description of male of *Daphnia projecta* from the Southern Tamilnadu. Likewise Malhotra and Langer (1994) gave the description of the male of *Simocephalus serrulatus* from Jammu. Similarly, the descriptions available on the presently investigated species, *Daphnia similis* too, are restricted to the females.

This paper reports the presence of *Daphnia similis* in the sub-tropical region of Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) and gives a full description of male for the first time, thus completing the description of the species.

Female with rounded helmet, rostrum pointed and recurved. Values oval in outline, narrowed posteriorly and continued into a tail, half the length of carapace (Fig. 1A). Tail with small



Fig. 1(A): Female



Fig. 1(A): Male

Fig 1: The figure showing *Daphnia similis*

spines which extend to the middle region of ventral margin of valves, and on dorsal margin of valves, and on dorsal margin extend to cervical region. Antennules very small and set close to rostrum. Eye large, ocellus small in the form of dot. Post-abdomen with 8-12 dorsal spines. Post-abdominal claw stout and curved with two well developed pectens. Maximum adult size 2.7 mm.

In males (Fig. 1B) rostrum is absent. Dorsal margin almost straight. Valves oblong, head ventrally rounded; eye large, ocellus small. Ventro-anterior margin with thick tuft of bristles. Antennules well developed and moveable; flagellum in the antennules not well developed. First leg modified with prolonged seta which emerges out of the carapace. Post-abdomen with 7-9 dorsal spines, Maximum size 1.4mm.

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