

**A new species of parasitic copepod of the genus *Lernaeenicus* Lesueur, 1824
(Siphonostomatoida: Pennellidae) from the torpedo scad *Megalaspis cordyla*
(Linnaeus) off Kerala coast of Arabian Sea, India**

ABSTRACT

A new species of parasitic copepod of the genus *Lernaeenicus* Lesueur, 1824 (Siphonostomatoida: Pennellidae) parasitizing the torpedo scad *Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus) collected from the Arabian Sea, off Kerala coast, India is described and illustrated. The new species, *Lernaeenicus megalaspis* sp. nov., can be distinguished from its other 32 congeners by the following features: (i) cephalosome 1.5 times longer than broad; (ii) presence of three stout posterior horns on the cephalosome, one median and two lateral, all sub-similar and apically round and blunt; (iii) neck 4.6 times as long as trunk; (iv) abdomen slightly longer than trunk; (v) 4-segmented antennule, and (vi) maxilla, third segment narrow, longer than second, segment 1 slightly broader than others and lateral border with two small spine.