

18. OCCURRENCE OF *LIMA (LIMARIA) FRAGILIS* GMELIN  
(MOLLUSCA: PELECYPODA) IN THE COASTAL  
WATERS OF RATNAGIRI

Live specimens of *Lima (Limaria) fragilis*, are available mostly from August to December, in the intertidal zone of Mirkarwada and Jaki-Mirya in Ratnagiri. Some specimens were kept alive in laboratory aquaria for about four months. The beautiful reddish pink colour of the animals started fading after four to six days and finally they became uniformly pale. Several attempts to feed them in captivity failed. After two to three weeks, they started building a nest from byssus threads. During this period of nest building they were left undisturbed. Once the nest was complete they stayed within the nest. The nest had an opening at either end. Water entered through one opening and came out through the other.

Members of the family Limidae are known for their beautiful coloration and capacity to swim. So far, *Lima (Lima) lima* Linn., *Lima (Lima) annulata* Lammark, *Lima (Lima) lischkei* Lamy, and *Lima (Limaria) fragilis* Gmelin have been recorded from the Indian ocean.

Of these the first two are widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific region, whereas the third species is recorded from Japan and Philippines in the Pacific to Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. *Lima (Limaria) fragilis* Gmelin is distributed throughout the western pacific (except Japan and Hawaii), Australia, East Indies, Bay of Bengal, Cocos Keeling and Maldive islands, (Dr. Abbotts, personal communication). Maldive appears to be the westernmost limit for this species in the Indo-Pacific area. Occurrence of this species at Ratnagiri extends its distribution slightly northwards in the Arabian Sea.

The records of *Lima* sp. from Indian coastal waters are few. This is the first record of *Lima fragilis* from the west coast.

We are indebted to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott for identifying the species.

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19. PROBABLE TRANSPORTATION OF *BALANUS*  
*AMPHITRITE STUTSBURI* (DARWIN) BY SHIPS

Occurrence of *Balanus amphitrite* var. *stutsburi* Darwin, has been reported from three widely separated localities along the west coast of India (Wagh & Bal 1969). According to Stubbings (1961) distribu-





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