

OCCURRENCE OF
CLEANTIS NATALENSIS ON THE
WEST COAST OF INDIA

Cleantis natalensis Barnard (Isopoda: IDOTEIDAE) was first described in 1925.¹ Subsequently Barnard² (1936) recorded adults of this species, inhabiting tubular cases, from the Ganjam Coast, Orissa and also from Burma (Bassein River estuary). In a later publication,³ the same author said that the juveniles from which the species was first described probably reached the Natal Coast in drift-weed; and he gave its distribution as Bay of Bengal.

In 1956, five specimens of *C. natalensis* were collected from the intertidal regions of Bombay, during the rainy season; and this is the first record of this species from the West Coast of India. One ovigerous female of 19 mm. length and a juvenile of 5 mm. were obtained from a log of wood which was heavily attacked by Teridinid borers; and the isopods were found in a tube, in one of the excavations. Another ovigerous female of 13 mm. was found in a puddle in sand among rotting leaves. Two forms (2 and 3.5 mm. long respectively) were collected from Eunicid tubes, while the fifth specimen, of 9 mm., was found among barnacles and oysters on a rocky shore.

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1. Barnard, K. H., *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.*, 1925, **20**, 394.
2. —, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 1936, **38**, 186.
3. —, *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.*, 1940, **32**, 428.