

New Distributional Records of *Malleus Anatinus* (Lamarck,1819) Family: Malleidae (Lamarck, 1819) from Mandapam Area -South East Coast of India

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Abstract: The new occurrence of bivalve species of *Malleus anatinus* (Lamarck,1819) is recorded for the first time from Mandapam area, based on a few shells collected from the fish landing centers. The common name of the species is Hammer Oysters. In family MALLEIDAE, only one species of *Malleus anatinus* was recorded so far. The present paper described the taxonomic status of the new record of *Malleus anatinus* under the family of Malleidae.

Key words: Missing

INTRODUCTION

In Gulf of Mannar, the only one species of Hammer Head Oysters - *Malleus albus* was recorded so far. The Hammer Oyster(*Malleus anatinus*) are hinged at the top of the “ T” where a small byssus emerges at the back. The hinge is held by an oblique ligament rather than teeth and the shell is partially nacreous. One might think of this oyster as having evolved the straight - edged hinge of the pearl oyster to an absurd length. A single large adductor muscle lies at the cross of the T and the exhalant current is discharged at the hinge. Most live in the crevices of coral rocks or on reef flats, in tropical regions.

During a regular survey at Mandapam fish landing centers, (Map.1) the shells of HammerOysters - *Malleus anatinus* were collected, 2 right valves and 3 left valves of different individuals, which have not been recorded by earlier workers from this area. One specimen of each valves of this species has been deposited in the Zoological survey of India - Chennai (Reg. no 151, dated Feb 2009).

SYSTEMATIC POSITION

Phylum : Mollusca
Class : Bivalvia
Subclass : Pteriomorpha
Order : Pterioida
Subfamily : Pteriacea



Map. 1: Mandapam study area map

Family : Malleidae(lamarck, 1819)
Genus : *Malleus*
Species : *Malleus Anatinus*(lamarck, 1819)

Family : Malleidae
Genus : *Malleus*

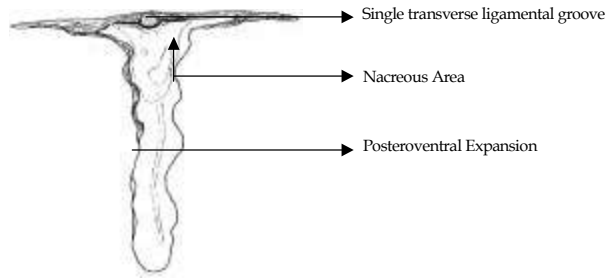
Family:

Malleidae: Shell compressed, irregular in form, more or less elongate dorsoventrally. Dorsal margin often produced at both ends in to long, wing - like ears. Ligament set on a transverse median groove. Hinge with out teeth. Interior partly nacreous. Only one adductor muscle scar, usually with a well- developed pedal retractor scar. Pallial line without sinus

Family : Malleidae (Lamarck, 1819)

Genus : Malleus (Lamarck, 1799)

Shell fragile, translucent, crinkled 'Beak' and black inner patch showing through like an 'eye' give this the name Duck Hammer.



Malleus anatinus (Lamarck,1819):

Size : 9.2 cm

Common name : Hammer Oysters

Locality : Coral sand, Intertidal area

Status : Uncommon

Distribution : Mandapam Area-Vembar group of island.



Fig. 1: *Malleus anatinus*

Description: Shell upto 9.2 cm in length , elongated and narrow, undulating sides, wings give it the form of a T-square. At the top of each valves strong and elongated .Ligament with prominent hinge teeth . Inner surface of the shell is a large muscular scar and Periostrcum white in colour.

Remarks: The shells were found on the fish landing centers at Mandapam area during the discarding of trawl catches from the Gulf of Mannar .This is the first record of this Species in Gulf of Mannar at Mandapam area.