



**First Distribution Record of the Isopod *Afrocerceis kenyensis*
Müller, 1995 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Sphaeromatidae)
from Indian Waters**

Ayan Dutta^{1*}, Chandran Rethnaraj^{1*} and Satyanarayana Chowdula²

¹*Zoological Survey of India- Field Station, Jamnagar 361 001, Gujarat, India*

²*Zoological Survey of India, Marine Biology Regional Station, 130, Santhome High Road,
Chennai 600 028, Tamil Nadu, India*

KEYWORDS *Afrocerceis*. Gulf of Kachchh. Isopods. New Species Distribution

ABSTRACT Isopods of the family Sphaeromatidae are called as ‘marine pill-bugs’. The present account confirms the expansion of Zoogeographical Distribution of an isopod species namely, *Afrocerceis kenyensis* from Kenya and Karachi Coasts to Gulf of Kachchh, northwest coast of India. Present study also describes a female ‘allotype specimen’ for the first time. The specimen is identified by having an elongated sac like ‘marsupium’ with egg mass at the posterior margin of 7th pereonite in the posterior-ventral side. *A. kenyensis* is the first generic record from Indian waters. *A. kenyensis* observed to inhabit in cryptic coral reefs habitats on the inter-tidal regions the Gulf of Kachchh. Detailed morphological variations between male and female specimens are also described.