

Updated diagnoses for the Indian species of *Streptocephalus* (Crustacea: Branchiopoda: Anostraca)

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Abstract

The taxonomic status of the Indian *Streptocephalus* (*S. dichotomus*, *S. echinus*, *S. longimanus*, *S. spinifer*, and *S. simplex*) is reevaluated and updated with additional information on various features such as penes, cercopods, and cysts. Surface ornamentation of the cysts is species-specific and therefore useful in identification.

Key words: *Streptocephalus dichotomus*, *S. echinus*, *S. simplex*, *S. longimanus*, *S. spinifer*, cyst morphology

Introduction

The Anostracan fauna is widespread and an important component of freshwater ecosystem. The monogeneric family Streptocephalidae Daday de dees, 1910 contains the genus *Streptocephalus* Baird, 1852, with 63 species distributed throughout Africa, North America, southern Eurasia, and Australia (Belk & Brtek 1995, 1997; Sanoamuang *et al.* 2000; Herbert & Timms 2000; Timms 2004). *Streptocephalus* species are defined by the morphology of the male second antennae and frontal appendage (Maeda-Martinez *et al.* 1995a, b).

Various authors have reviewed the *Streptocephalus* of the Americas (Baird 1852; Daday 1908; Creaser 1930; Linder 1941; Moore 1966; Maeda-Martinez 1995a) and Africa (Brendonck & Coomans 1994; Hamer *et al.* 1994a, b), and cursory reviews of the species of the world are available (Maeda-Martinez, *et al.* 1995b; Belk & Brtek 1995, 1997). In contrast the Anostraca of the Indian Empire have received sporadic attention (Alcock 1897; Sars 1900; Gurney 1907, 1931; Daday 1910; Bond 1934; Battish 1992; Belk & E