

INTRODUCTION

An inventory of pelagic amphipods (Hyperidea) of Indian waters are attempted for the first time. The hyperiid amphipods are important marine crustacean zooplankton ranking third in abundance next to Copepoda and Euphausiacea. Identification of hyperiids often is a difficult task mainly because of the scattered condition of the literature on hyperiid systematics. Much of the essential literature on hyperiid systematics is contained in expedition reports of the 19th century. Pioneer monographs on hyperiids by Bovallius (1887,1889,1890) and Claus,1879 are worth mentioning other than the recent one by Vinogradov, 1982. The need for an upto date inventory on the hyperiid amphipods of Indian waters has become imminent in view of the studies on marine biodiversity programme and hence this contribution.