A NEW SIPHONOPHORE OF THE GENUS *LENSIA* FROM THE BAY OF BENGAL.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the course of a detailed study on the siphonophores from the Bay of Bengal off the Madras coast during 1952–60 at the Zoology Research Laboratory, University of Madras, eight anterior nectophores were obtained from plankton collections made at depths of 0–100 metres, which could undoubtedly be assigned to the genus *Lensia* Totton 1932. These specimens were found to differ from the twenty-one valid species in this genus and are hence referred to a new species, *Lensia tottoni*† sp. nov.

Lensia tottoni sp. nov.

MATERIAL.—Five anterior nectophores from a closed haul from 100–50 metres at lat. 13° 14′ E. and long. 80° 52′ E. on 11th December 1952.

Two anterior nectophores from surface by horizontal haul with tow net off Madras coast on 14th September, 1959.

One anterior nectophore from surface off Madras coast on 8th January, 1960.

DIAGNOSIS.—Anterior nectophore broadly pyramidal, five non-crested ridges, laterals not reaching the base, inclined towards the ventral side. Nectosac large, bulged with broad mouth opening. Somatocyst non-stalked, transparent, with spinular projections on margin, inclined ventrally, with small round, yellow concretions. Hydroecium absent.

SHAPE.—Pyramidal, with broad base.

SIZE.—Two large anterior nectophores have the following measurements :

Length	—5·3 mm.
Breadth	—2·75 mm.
Somatocyst length	—0·95 mm.

The other specimens were slightly smaller.

DESCRIPTION.—There are five non-crested, distinct longitudinal ridges. The dorsal one projects slightly beyond the mouth of the nectosac. The laterals bend ventro-orally but do not reach the base. The ventral ridges extend only up to the velar level. The baso-ventral ridge is prominent, horizontal and is almost equal in length to the mouth of the nectosac. The baso-ventral facet projects downwards beyond the baso-ventral ridge. The inner edges of the velum project below the outer ones. The

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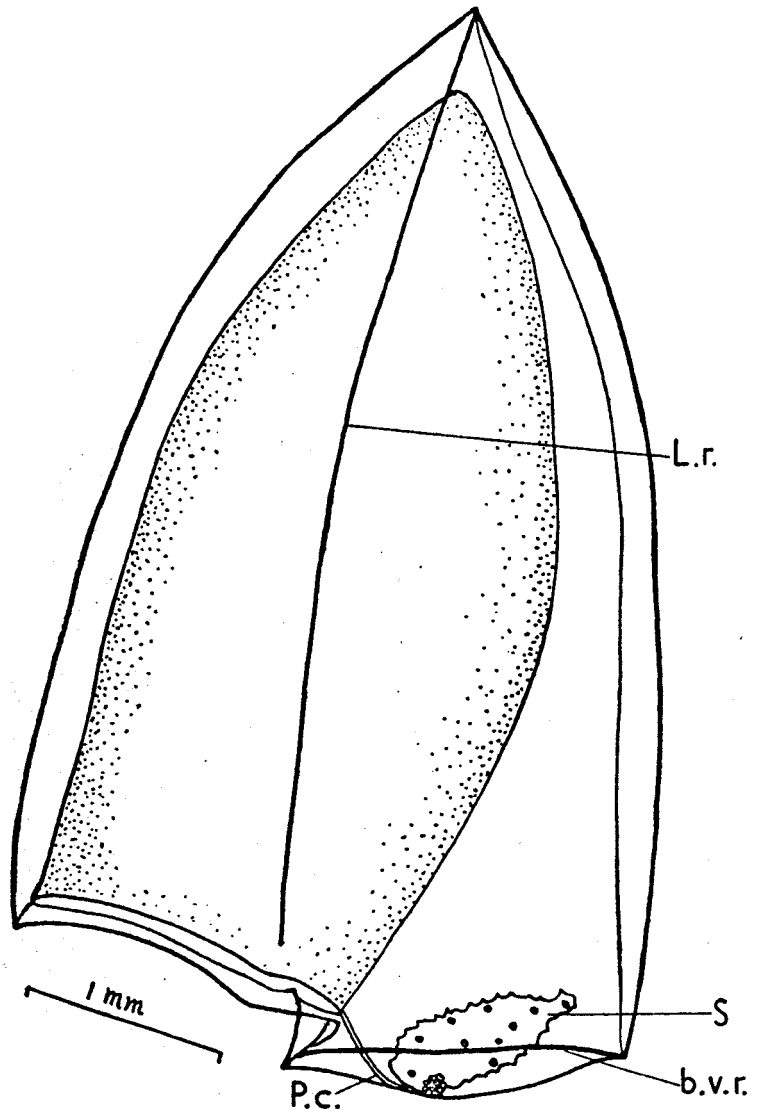
† Named for Capt. A. K. Totton, who established this genus.

Fig. 1.



Lensia tottoni sp. nov.
b.v.r.—baso-ventral ridge ; L.r.—Lateral ridge ; P.c.—Pedicular canal ; S.—Somatocyst.

canal system is as in *Lensia subtiloides*. The somatocyst is very transparent and therefore it appears as though the somatocyst is absent unless carefully examined. In live forms the outline of the somatocyst could be made out by the spinular or serrated margin of its

wall. The somatocyst has a broad oval base and a narrow tip, which is inclined towards the ventral wall making an angle of 35° with the horizontal plane. There is no stalk. Small rounded yellow concretions are scattered within the somatocyst. The hydroecium is absent. The pedicular canal descends down to the somatocyst. The stem and posterior nectophores were not collected.

TYPE MATERIAL.—The types will be deposited in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. A specimen from lat. 13° 14′ E. and long. 80° 52′ E. has been designated as the holotype.

COMPARISONS.—The genus *Lensia* includes twenty-one valid species. Of these, *grimaldii* Leloup 1933, *exeter* Totton 1941, *ajax* Totton 1941, *hostile* Totton 1941, *lelouveteau* Totton 1941, *meteori* Leloup 1934 and *reticulata* Totton 1954 are multicristate forms. In *subtilis* Chun 1886 and *cossack* Totton 1941, the ridges are vestigeal. In *multicristata* Moser 1925, *hunter* Totton 1941 and *havock* Totton 1941 there are seven ridges. The present forms resemble *subtiloides* Lens and Riemsdijk 1908, *conoidea* Keferstein and Ehlers 1861, *fowleri* Bigelow 1911, *campanella* Moser 1925, *achilles* Totton 1941, *hardy* Totton 1941, *hotspur* Totton 1941, *challengeri* Totton 1954 and *leloupi* Totton 1954 by the possession of five distinct ridges. It can be distinguished from these in the lateral ridges not reaching the base. In this character it resembles *leloupi*, but differs from it in the complete absence of the hydroecium, baso-ventrally inclined lateral ridges and the characteristic somatocyst, justifying the creation of a new species *Lensia tottoni*.

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