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A STUDY OF AEROBIC MICROFLORA OF SHRIMP
PENAEUS INDICUS CAUGHT IN THE SEA OFF NEGOMBO

T S G Fonseka

National Aquatic Resources Agency, Colombo 15

G S Vidanapathirana

University of Kelaniya

Prawn samples were taken from five boats at the landing points in Negombo over a period of six months starting from July 1984. The bacterial load and the qualitative microflora of the shrimp samples were investigated.

The samples tested indicated total bacterial counts in the range of 1.9×10^6 /g to 6.5×10^6 /g, at incubation temperature of 30°C . At 5°C incubation the counts ranged from 1.9×10^5 /g to 1.82×10^6 /g.

Majority of organisms isolated at 30°C incubation were gram positive. The genus Micrococcus (40.7%) occurred in highest incidence, but Bacillus occurred to a much lesser extent. Pseudomonas, Vibrio and Escherichia which constituted gram negatives were in very low numbers. The occurrence of Vibrio parahaemolyticus and Vibrio alginolyticus was also recorded in this study.

Over 70% of the isolates at 5°C were Micrococcus. The incidence of Vibrio and Bacillus species was extremely low at this incubation temperature.