

SOME CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAMELLIBRANCHIATE FAUNA IN THE
COASTAL WATERS OF SRI LANKA

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An interest has developed for culturing bivalves due to rapidly increasing demand for these lamellibranchiates, and effective culturing warrants investigations on their composition and distribution in the coastal waters of Sri Lanka. Some varieties are confined to some areas whereas some most economically important species have not been recorded so far, even though they have a wide distribution. Some of the coastal bivalves have been listed^{1,2}. The present study contributes sixteen unrecorded bivalves to the lamellibranchiate fauna in the coastal waters of Sri Lanka.

Specimens were collected from Eastern, North-Western, Western, South-Western and Southern coastal areas including some bays and lagoons and they were identified using both soft parts as well as hard shells. Sixteen species of bivalves belonging to 10 families have been identified with some records of their ecology and most of them were oysters belonging to family, *Osteridae* whereas other species are of families *Mytilidae*, *Arcidae*, *Pteridae*, *Pinnidae*, *Spondilidae*, *Limidae*, *Aviculidae* and *Chamidae*.

References

1. Herdman, W.A. (1960) Report to the Government of Ceylon on the pearl oyster fisheries of the Gulf of Mannar, Part (V) 288 - 94
2. Fernando, D.H (1977) Lamellibranchiate fauna of the estuarine and coastal areas in Sri Lanka. Bull. Fish. Res. Stn., Sri Lanka (Ceylon) 27 29 - 53