

DIGESTIVE AND REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS OF *CHICOREUS RAMOSUS*

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ABSTRACT

The anatomy of *Chicoreus ramosus* has been studied in long and short spined forms collected from the Gulf of Mannar. No anatomical differences were found between the two forms. In *C. ramosus*, the alimentary canal begins at the pleuroembolic proboscis with oesophagus. The anterior oesophagus receives ducts from a pair of salivary glands and accessory salivary glands which are yellow in colour. The posterior oesophagus opens into the stomach which is triangular in shape and embedded in the visceral mass. The short intestine is followed by the rectum which opens into the mantle cavity through the anus. In *C. ramosus* sexes are separate.