

**PATHOLOGICAL CHANGES CAUSED BY PARASITES IN  
*CHICOREUS RAMOSUS* L**

**By I. Emerson Kagoo and K. Ayyakkannu**

*Centre of Advanced Study in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, Parangipettai - 608 502, India*

**ABSTRACT**

Sporocysts of trematodes and nematodes infested the foot, mantle, digestive gland (hepatopancreas) and gonad of the marine gastropod *Chicoreus ramosus*. The digestive gland was the preferred site of infection. Visual examination of the foot revealed tissue reactions in the form of transparent blisters, mainly on the dorso lateral sides due to infection by the parasitic helminth *Echinocephalus* sp. (Family Gnathostomidae). Numerous cysts of trematode parasites caused extensive damage to the digestive gland, but slight destruction of the gonads. Infected animals survived even though the digestive gland had been severely obliterated. Histopathological examination of the digestive gland revealed multifocal epithelial necrosis, autolysis and alteration in the hepatopancreatic tubules and mechanical destruction of cells. Infection was more frequent in adults than younger ones. Most males were subjected to chronic infection. The infected animals generally had a heavily damaged or bored shell.