A Sipunculan *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi* Gray, 1828 (Golfingiiformes: Themistidae) first report from Pakistan

Farhana S Ghory, Qaseem Tahera

**Abstract**

Sipunculans are exclusively marine unsegmented worms. Single specimens of Sipunculan *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi* Gray, 1828 [15] is collected from Sandspit (Lat. 24° 50' 24N Long. 66° 54' 24E). This is the first report of the species collected along the northern Arabian Sea (Pakistan). The species at hand is briefly described and illustrated with a note on its distribution, ecology, and habitat.

**Keywords:** *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi*, Pakistan, new record.

**Introduction**


**Material examined**

Specimens of *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi* was collected from Sandspit (Lat. 24° 50’ 24N Long. 66° 54’ 24E). It was preserved in 70% ethanol. Specimen is housed in the Marine Reference collection and Resource Centre (MRC&RC) under the Cat No, SIPU -05. The abbreviation TL is used for total length measured from the anterior (introvert) to posterior (end of trunk) and TW total width.

**Size:**

TL = 59 mm in length.

TW = 34 mm in width.

**Systematic**


Class Sipunculoidea Gibbs and Cutler 1987

Order Golfingiiformes Cutler and Gibbs, 1987

Family Themistidae Cutler and Gibbs 1985

Genus Themiste Gray, 1828 [15]

Subgenus *Themiste (Themiste)* Gray, 1828 [15]

Species *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi* Gray, 1828 [15]

(Figs. 1-5)

**Results and Description**

The body of *Themiste (Themiste) hennahi* is balloon shaped wrinkled with large number of grooves (Fig.1). Body wall with continuous muscle layer (Fig. 2). A pair of retractor muscles is present. Five asymmetrical tentacles surrounding the mouth, extending along branched stem like (Fig.3). Introvert holes absent. Skin thick with small papillae (Fig.4). Contractile vessel with villi, which are unbranched and thread like (Fig. 5). Oesophagus slender shape. Long coil intestine and nephridia are present, Gonads are present at the retractor bases.
Distribution
Eastern Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean (Halder, 1991 [9]; Cutler, 1994) [5]. Now first time reported from (northern Arabian Sea) Pakistan.

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Fig 1: Themiste (Themiste) hennahi Gray, 1828, entire specimen

Fig 2: Themiste (Themiste) hennahi Gray, 1828, dissected specimen

Fig 3: Themiste (Themiste) hennahi Gray, 1828. Asymmetrical tentacles

Fig 4: Themiste (Themiste) hennahi Gray, 1828, arrangement of papillae

Fig 5: Themiste (Themiste) hennahi Gray, 1828, contractile vessel villi

References