

**Descriptions of a new and a known species of the genus
Chronogaster Cobb, 1913 (Chromadorea : Plectida :
Chronogasteridae) from India**

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ABSTRACT : Various sediment samples were collected from the edge of water bodies located in India to determine the diversity of aquatic nematodes. During the screening of sediment samples collected from Loktak Lake (a Ramsar Site) and an estuary located in Vishakhapatnam a large number of nematodes were found. Of them, a new and a known species of the genus *Chronogaster* Cobb, 1913 were also collected. *Chronogaster loktakensis* sp.nov. is characterised by the presence of vacuolated bodies, crystalloids, faint longitudinal lines, 7-10 µm long cephalic setae, 16-28 µm long radial tubule arising from the base of stoma and tail with a terminal stout mucro surrounded by three spines. While, *Chronogaster citri* Khan & Nanjappa, 1973 is being reported with a difference found in the shape of stoma with additional information on body annules, presence of crystalloid and vacuolated bodies. A key to identification of Indian species has also been provided.

Key Words : Aquatic nematode, *Chronogaster citri*; *Chronogaster loktakensis* sp.nov., Indian species; Loktak Lake; Ramsar site.