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Study of Distribution and Morphological Characters of *Alpheus glaber* and *Alpheus estuarensis* Larva Species (Caridea: Alpheidae) in the Mouth of Bahmanshir and Arvand Rivers, (North Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

The study describes the temporal and spatial distribution of larval stages of two species of Alpheidae from the Bahmanshir and Arvand estuaries in north of the Persian Gulf. Planktonic larvae were collected using 0.45 m diameter plankton net with 300μm mesh size monthly horizontal towing from February 2011 to October 2012. The larval stages illustrated and described in detail for *Alpheus glaber* and *Alpheus estuarensis*. The species of larval density was calculated at different stations and months. The most abundant species *A. glaber* with 110.1 Ind larvae /m^3 in May and *A. estuarensis* 93.1 Ind larvae /m^3 were calculated in June. Two new species of Alpheus larvae were first reports of the *Iranian* coastal water. Also, positive relationship between temperature and salinity with frequency of *A. glaber* and *A. estuarensis* were found significantly using spearman correlation coefficients ($P< 0.05$).

Keywords: *Zoea, Caridea shrimp, Zooplankton, Alpheidae, Persian Gulf.*