

Occurrence of *Loliolus hardwickei* (Gray,1849) from southwest coast of India

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A single specimen of the little Indian squid *Loliolus hardwickei* was caught by trawl net by the research vessel “F.V Silver Pompano” on 18th March 2014. It was caught from waters off Cochin at a depth of about 20 m (09° 58.30' N; 76° 06.18' E). The specimen was previously described as *Loliolus investigatoris* (Goodrich, 1896). But, it is now reported that it is a junior synonym of *Loliolus hardwickei*. This species is known to inhabit estuarine and coastal waters to a maximum depth of 30 m (FAO species catalogue for Fishery purposes, Cephalopods of the World No.4, Vol.2, 2010). The current specimen was 56.8mm in length and had weight of 13.39 g. The specimen was deposited to the museum of CMFRI (Acc No. DE.2.1.3.1.1). This species is known to be distributed along the east coast, north west coast and presently from the south west coast of India also.

Description

The specimen was a mature female having eggs (Stage III). Mantle short and stout; fins large and heart shaped, with a width of about 81% of the



Fig. 1. *Loliolus hardwickei* (A) dorsal view and (B) ventral view with mantle cut open to show stage (ovary and nidamental glands) (Scale = 1cm)

mantle length; head and arms are short; tentacles short with small tentacular clubs; body colourless and transparent when fresh (Fig. 1). On preservation the mantle turned whitish with diffused pale brown chromatophores distributed all over the body.

Table 1. Morphometric indices of *Loliolus hardwickei*

Character	Length (mm)	Indices (% of mantle length)
Dorsal mantle length	56.8	
Ventral mantle length	51.1	90.0
Mantle width	22.2	39.1

Head length	9.6	16.9
Head width	16.8	29.6
First Arm (R)	12.3	21.7
Second Arm(R)	15.8	27.8
Third Arm(R)	20.9	36.8
Ventral Arm (R)	20.7	36.4
Tentacle length	56.2	98.9
Fin length	36.4	64.1
Fin width	46.1	81.2

Very little information is available on the biology of this species probably because it has little importance for the commercial fisheries.