

Leucism in seerfish *Scomberomorus commerson* landed at Chintapalli, Andhra Pradesh

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A narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, *Scomberomorus commerson* (Lacepède, 1800), exhibiting leucism was landed at Chinatapalli Fishing Harbour, Vijayanagaram District on 24th January, 2014. The specimen was 130 cm long and weighed 16 kg. It was caught by hook and line operated from motorized craft at a distance of 11 km from shore at a depth of 32 m. The specimen was characterized by unnatural yellow colouration on the body.

Leucism describe reptiles and amphibians with abnormal skin pigmentation and normal eye colour (Bechtel, 1995) and recently it has also been used in ichthyology (Steven, 2002; Veena *et al.*, 2011). Hence it is felt apt to use this term for partial albinism observed in the present study. The ventral part of the fish was white and dorsal portion was partly black, white and yellow. The fins and finlets



Fig. 1. Leucism in seerfish, *Scomberomorus commerson*, landed at Chinatapalli Fishing Harbour

were all white having yellowish colour at the base of the fins. There were faint yellow bands visible on the body of the fish. The eyes showed normal retinal pigmentation.

Leucism can result from genetic mutation exposure to coastal pollution, inter-breeding etc. This unnatural colouration of the fish affected its marketability and this particular specimen was sold for ₹ 350/- per kg, which is much lesser than its normal price in the local market.