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Marine Ecosystems

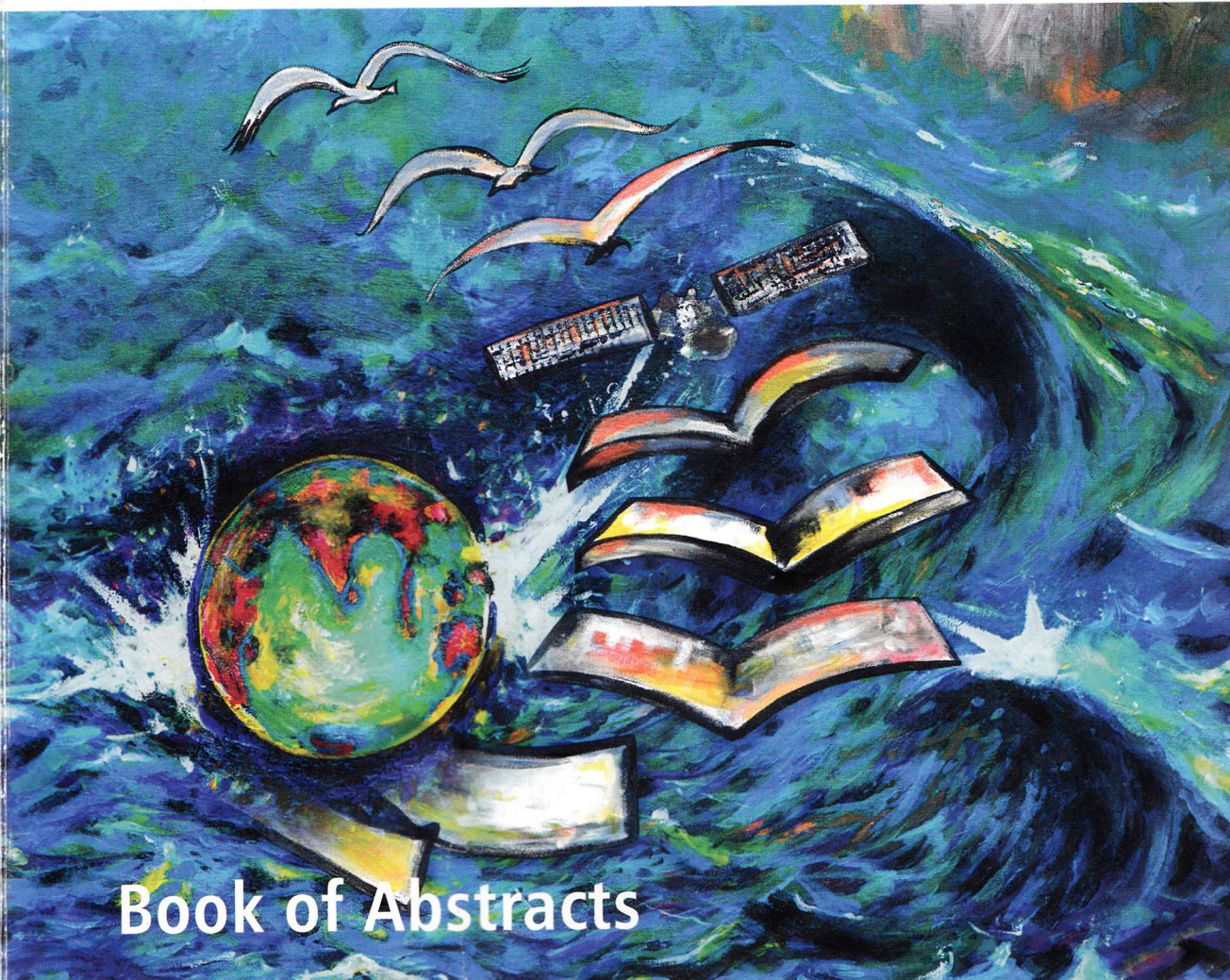
Challenges & Opportunities

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Book of Abstracts

Histological observations of testis of the squid *Sepioteuthis lessoniana* Lesson 1830 from Palk Bay, Mandapam, India

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Sepioteuthis lessoniana (Lesson, 1830), commonly known as bigfin squid or oval squid is an important target species in many fisheries around the world. *S. lessoniana* is an Indo-Pacific neritic species occurring from the surface down to at least 100 m depth. In India, squids are caught mainly as by catch in trawl nets used for shrimp/fish trawling, shore seines, boat seines, hook and line and stake nets. It represents the most common species of coastal pelagic squids found along the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar of India. Male squids with testes in different stages of development were collected from Mandapam landing centre during the fishing season. The objective of the present study is to describe male reproductive system and the phases of gonad development in *S. lessoniana*. The different stages of gametogenic development were examined microscopically. Gonad development stages were matched in accordance with our macroscopic and microscopic observations. Based on histological observations, male gonads were classified into four main stages of development. Squids examined also were divided into four main groups according to the degree of development of spermatozoa within seminiferous tubules.

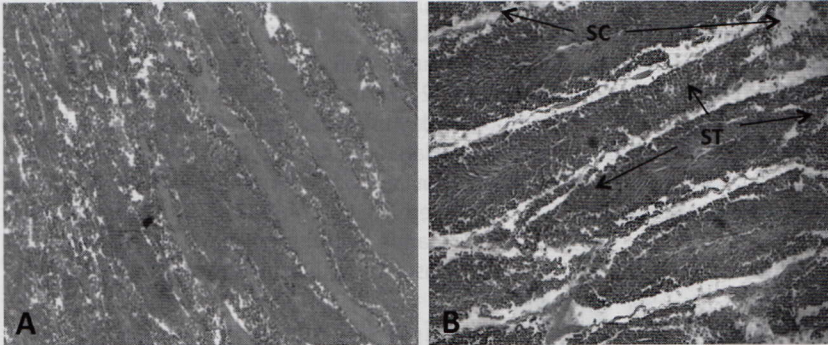


Fig. 1. A. Stage I - Testis of immature male showing tubules in early stages of development. B. Longitudinal section through an individual seminiferous tubule of a stage II animal. Secondary spermatocytes (SC) and spermatids (ST).