

# Unusual feeding behaviour of Indian oil sardine

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The Indian oil sardine, *Sardinella longiceps* is a filter feeder, feeding mainly on plankton, particularly diatoms. They usefully feed on surface planktons and occasionally resort to bottom feeding (Bensam, 1964, *Indian J. Fish*, 11A (1): 377-390). In recent years, the presence of fish scales has become more common. Recently, during a biological sampling of 108 trawl caught oil sardines, collected on 4.1.2018 from the Puthiyappa Fisheries Harbour, a male specimen (stage II maturity stage, measuring 180 mm in TL and weighing 51 gm) with full gut condition had



Fig. 1. Trawl net caught sardine with *Bregmaceros* sp.

one *Bregmaceros* sp (45 mm) inside its gut (Fig. 1). Earlier also, observation on 11.6.2015 in which 30.4% of the ring net caught oil sardines, measuring 147 to 200 mm in TL, had 1 to 3 numbers of *Stolephorus* sp. in their guts (Fig. 2). The frequent occurrence of fish scales and the presence of fishes in the guts of oil sardines in recent years requires more detailed studies.



Fig. 2. Ring net caught sardine with *Stolephorus* sp.