

Record of the Trident cuttlefish from Maharashtra coast

Santosh N. Bhendekar^{1*}, K. Sunil Mohamed², Geetha Sasikumar³, S. Ramkumar¹, R. Ratheesh Kumar¹, Ajay D. Nakhawa¹ and Veerendra Veer Singh¹

¹ Mumbai Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai-400 061, Maharashtra

² ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi-682 018, Kerala

³ Mangalore Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mangaluru-575 001, Karnataka

*E-mail: santucofs@gmail.com

Cuttlefish are important fishery resources landed mostly by mechanized trawlers operating along Maharashtra coast. Many new records of cuttlefishes have been reported



Fig. 1. Trident cuttlefish *Sepia trygonina* landed in New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

from Maharashtra over the years. Trident cuttlefish, *Sepia trygonina* (Rochebrune, 1884) was observed in trawl (reported depth of trawl operation was about 30-40 m at 70-80 km southwest of Mumbai coast) landings at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai on 10.11.2017. The dorsal mantle length (DML) of the species landed ranged from 66.12 to 85.04 mm with corresponding weight ranging from 17.87 to 35.35 g. Identification was based on following characters: mantle oblong, acuminate posteriorly, fins narrow. Tentacular clubs short, with a well-developed swimming keel extending proximally beyond the base of the club; 5 suckers in transverse rows; 4 greatly enlarged suckers in longitudinal series towards posterior end of club dorsal protective membrane broad and separated at base from the ventral membrane. Cuttlebone outline lanceolate, strongly recurved ventrally and anterior striae on cuttle bone inverted U-shaped (Figs. 1 & .2).



Fig. 2. Cuttlebone of Trident cuttlefish