

A note on Spinetail Devil rays from Indian waters

During a regular fishery survey along the coast of West Bengal, a single specimen of Spinetail Devil ray (*Mobula mobular*) was recorded at Digha Mohana on 31st August 2021. The specimen was identified with the help of "Guide to the Manta and Devil rays of the world" by Stevens *et al.* (2018) and measurements recorded which were compared to similar, earlier published records. The specimen is among the largest sizes recorded for Spinetail Devil ray (Table 1). The key distinguishing features of the

species was the presence of caudal spine, white tipped elongated dorsal fin, spiracle under a distinct ridge above the margin of the pectoral fin where it joins body, tail equal to or longer than disc width and white ventral markings wrap up behind and above eyes, just exceeding margin where pectoral fin joins body. The female individual was caught by a multiday trawl operated off Digha, West Bengal. Locally called as 'chill', it has very little demand in nearby markets such as Nandakumar

(Purba Medinipur District) and Calcutta. According to fishermen, the species is very rare in landings and, whenever landed, cut into small pieces, salted, and sent to Kerala where there is local. The price at landing centre usually varies between ₹50-70 per kg depending on the demand.

Subal Kumar Roul*, Shikha Rahangdale, Sujitha Thomas and Prathibha Rohit | Digha Regional Station of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

Table 1. Maximum size records of *Mobula mobular* in the world oceans

Maximum length (DW in cm)	Sex	Region/Area	References
455*	Unsexed	Gulf of Cadiz (Spain)	Lozano (1928)
127	F	Mumbai	Setna & Sarangdhar (1949)
470*	Unsexed	Paris Museum	Bigelow & Schroeder (1953)
112	Unsexed	Calicut	Devadoss (1984)
167.4	Unsexed	Gulf of Mannar	Talwar & Kackar (1984)
520**	Unsexed	Off Algeria	di Sciara <i>et al.</i> (1987); Pellegrin (1901)
340	F	Northern Tyrrhenian Sea	di Sciara & Serena (1988)
265	F	Gulf of Mannar	Rajapackiam <i>et al.</i> (1994)
265	M		
450*	F	Vizhinjam	Pillai (1998)
300	M	Adriatic Sea	Scaccoet <i>et al.</i> (2009)
140	F	Mumbai	Raje <i>et al.</i> (2009)
130	M		
79	Unsexed	Veraval	Borrell <i>et al.</i> (2011)
270	F	Gulf of Antalya	Ba usta & Özbek (2017)
272	M		
320	F	Gaza	Abudaya <i>et al.</i> (2018)
306	M		
320	Unsexed	-	Stevens <i>et al.</i> (2018)
217	F	Gulf of California	Gaskins (2019)
350	Unsexed	Gulf of California	di Sciara <i>et al.</i> (2020)
483**	Unsexed	France	di Sciara <i>et al.</i> (2020)
270	F	Gulf of California	Serrano López <i>et al.</i> (2021)
270	M		
339	F	Digha Mohana	Present study

Note: *The specimens were currently confirmed as *Mobula birostris* and

**the specimen is currently presumed to be of *M. birostris* (di Sciara *et al.*, 2020)