

NEW RECORDS OF SCOMBROID FISHES FROM THE ANDAMAN-NICOBAR WATERS

IN the course of a visit to the Andamans and Nicobars during February-March 1960, we were able to obtain seven species of Scombroid fishes, six of which have not hitherto been recorded from this area, and two of which are new records for the Indian Seas. In fact, Herre (1941), while listing 490 species of fishes from the Andamani waters drew attention to the paucity of our knowledge of the pelagic fishes of the area. He recorded only three scombroid species, namely, *Scomber microlepidotus* Ruppell, *Rastrelliger brachysoma* (Bleeker), and *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Ruppell). Of these, *S. microlepidotus* is now considered to be a synonymy of *R. kanagurta*, thus leaving only two scombroid species as having been recorded from this area. Our collections include the following species :

1. The Indian Mackerel, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier) : 3 specimens between 225 and 250 mm. from Port Blair, Andamans.
2. The Eastern Little Tunny, *Euthynnus affinis affinis* (Cantor) : 1 specimen 562 mm. caught off Port Blair, Andamans. New record for Andamans and Nicobar waters.
3. The Double-lined Mackerel, *Grammatorcynus bicarinatus* (Quoy & Gaimard) : 1 specimen, 449 mm. taken on hook and line off Ross Island, Port Blair, Andamans. New record for Indian Seas.
4. The Dog-toothed Tuna, *Gymnosarda unicolor* (Ruppell) : 3 specimens measuring 514, 680, and 685 mm. caught off Port Blair, Andamans. New record for Indian Seas.
5. The Striped Seer, *Scomberomorus (Cybium) commerson* (Lacépède) : 2 specimens taken on troll line between Long Island and Mayabundur and one specimen caught off Ross Island, Port Blair, Andamans. New record for Andamans and Nicobar waters.
6. The Wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier & Valenciennes)* : 2 specimens 1020 and 1200 mm. taken on troll line between Long Island and Mayabundur, Andamans. New record for Andamans and Nicobar waters. Hitherto reported from Indian waters from only the Laccadive Seas (Jones & Kumaran, 1959) ; and the Wadge Bank off Cape Comorin (John, 1959). In July, this year, we obtained one specimen from Tuticorin. Deraniyagala (1952) has recorded this species off Ceylon coast.
7. The Sail Fish, *Istiophorus gladius* (Broussonnet) : Skeleton and fin of one specimen caught off Malacca Bay, Car Nicobar in 1958. New record for Andamans and Nicobar waters.

The Atlas cum Report on the "Average year's fishing conditions of the Tuna long-line fisheries" edited by the Nankai Regional Fisheries Research Laboratory

*For information regarding the occurrence of this species in the Indian Ocean, reference is invited to the note by Narayana Rao (1960). *J. Mar. biol. Ass. India*, 2(1) : 130-33

(1958 edition, published in July 1959) indicates that the Japanese long-line fishing operations in the Andamans and Nicobar waters at different months of the year yielded seven commercially important species hitherto not reported from that area. They are, *Thunnus germon* (Lacépède), *Thunnus orientalis* (Temminck & Schlegel), *Parathunnus mebachi* (Kishinouye), *Neothunnus macropterus* (Temminck & Schlegel), *Xiphias gladius* (Linnaeus), *Kajikia mitsukurii* (Jordan & Snyder), and *Eumakaria nigra* (Nakamura). More recently, Nakagome (1959 *a* & *b*) has also indicated the occurrence of the Yellowfin Tuna, *Neothunnus macropterus*, and the Big-eyed Tuna, *Parathunnus mebachi* from the Andamans and Nicobar waters.

Besides these species, it will not be surprising if improved fishing methods and more intensive surveys eventually show that other Scombroids, such as the Skipjack, *Katsuwonus pelamis* (Linnaeus); the Oriental Bonito, *Sarda orientalis* (Temminck & Schlegel); the Frigate Mackerels, *Auxis thazard* (Lacépède) and *A. thynnoides* Bleeker; the Indian Spanish Mackerel, *Scomberomorus (S.) guttatus* (Bloch & Schneider); the Indian Long-tailed Tunny, *Kishinoella tonggol* (Bleeker); the Short-nosed Spear Fish *Tetrapturus brevirostris* (Playfair); etc., which occur in the tropical Indian Ocean and in the Indian Coastal waters are also present in the Andamans and Nicobar waters.

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