

Diamond back squid spotted at Chennai coast



Dorsal view of the Diamond back squid *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* collected from Chennai Fisheries Harbour

A single male specimen of diamond back squid *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* (Troschel, 1857) locally called “Thalan kadama” was recorded for the first time in the landings at Chennai Fisheries Harbour on 31.03.2011. The squid was caught in the drift gill net operated off north Chennai at a depth of around 100 m. The length of the squid was 650 mm in mantle length and it weighed 9 kg. The specimen was sold for Rs. 900/- in the landing centre. The landing of the same species of female squid with a mantle length of 630 mm at Chennai Fisheries Harbour has been reported by Sethi et al 2009.

It is an epipelagic oceanic rhomboid squid of bright red colour, having a thick cylindrical muscular mantle - wide anteriorly and tapering gradually to a blunt end posteriorly. The fins are long, occupying the entire length of the mantle laterally. The shape of the fin is rhomboidal, being broader in the middle and tapering at both anterior and posterior ends. The head is shorter and the eyes are prominent. The squid possesses longest outer lateral arms and the outer arms are the shortest provided with a crest like muscular projection at the base of each arm. The other arms are intermediary in length devoid of any

structures. All the arms possess two rows of suckers and sucker rings with sharp teeth.

The squid is an inhabitant of warm tropical and partially sub-tropical waters. It occupies near surface waters during the night and migrates to mid waters during the day time and often occurs alone or in pairs. There is detailed information on the distribution of this species in the Atlantic and Pacific waters and the most abundant populations have been found in the waters of Japan.

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Morphometric measurements of the Diamond back squid *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* caught off Chennai coast.

Morphometric characters	Measurements (mm)
Mantle length, dorsal	650
Mantle length, ventral	630
Mantle width	500
Fin width	210
Head length	110
Width of head	160
Funnel length	85
Eye diameter	45
Tentacle length	625
Total weight (kg)	9