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OCCURRENCE OF SMALL SIZED SEER FISHES *S. GUTTATUS* AND *S. COMMERSON* AT KARWAR (KARNATAKA)*

While examining a rampan catch on 3rd December 1981, small sized *Scomberomorus guttatus* (Fig. 1) were observed along with mackerel. The sizes ranged from 52 mm to 96 mm with modal length at 72 mm. Again

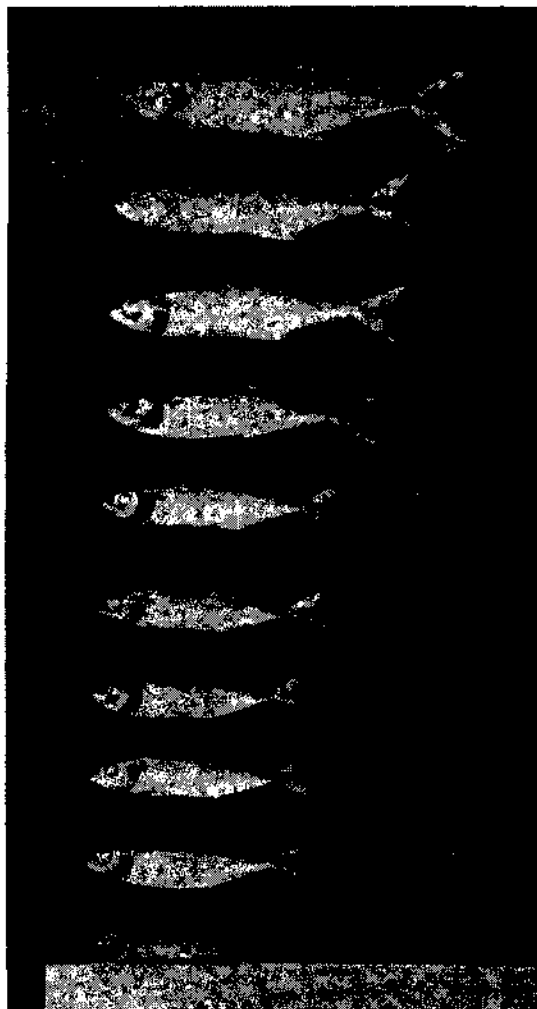


Fig. 1 *S. guttatus*

a few of these were observed in the same gear on 8th and 9th instants, the sizes ranging from 76 mm to 116 mm and modes at 97 mm.

On 8th, 9th and 17th instants, a few numbers of *S. commerson* (Fig. 2) were also picked up. The minimum and maximum size recorded for this species was 83 and 139 mm respectively.

Small sized *S. guttatus* and *S. commerson* could be

identified based on some external features. The height of body in the latter species is more than in the former. The second dorsal fin in *S. commerson* is tinged as brightly yellow as its caudal fin, whereas in the other species it is lacking. The characteristic steep slope of lateral line below second dorsal fin which distinguishes the adults of the two species is also clearly discernible. Another added feature to identify these two species is based on dentition. In *S. guttatus* the teeth on the lower half of the jaw are of villiform type and are more in numbers whereas in the other there are 6-7 prominent teeth pointing backwards with fairly

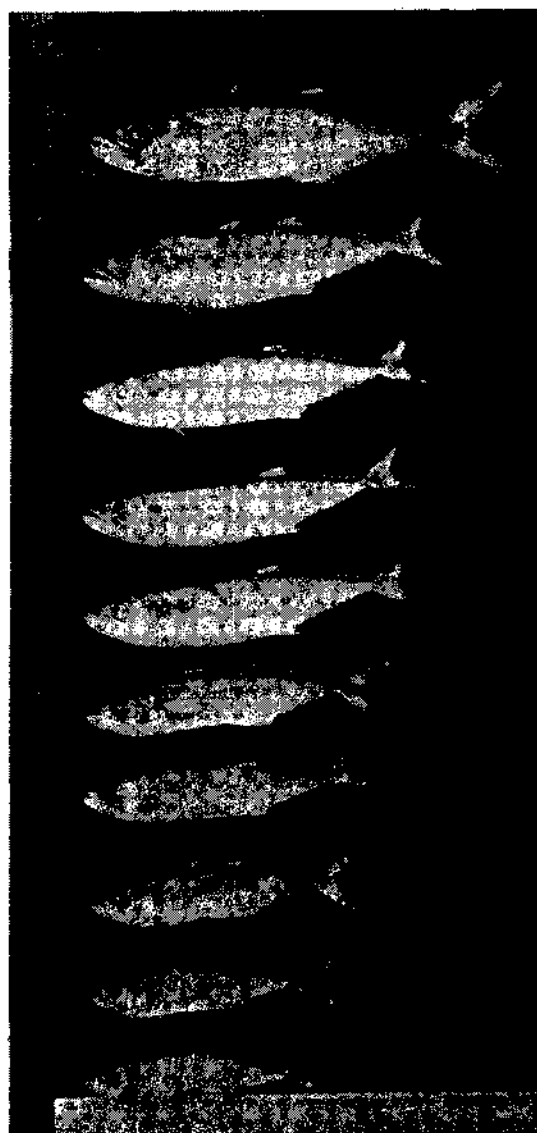


Fig. 2. *S. commerson*

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