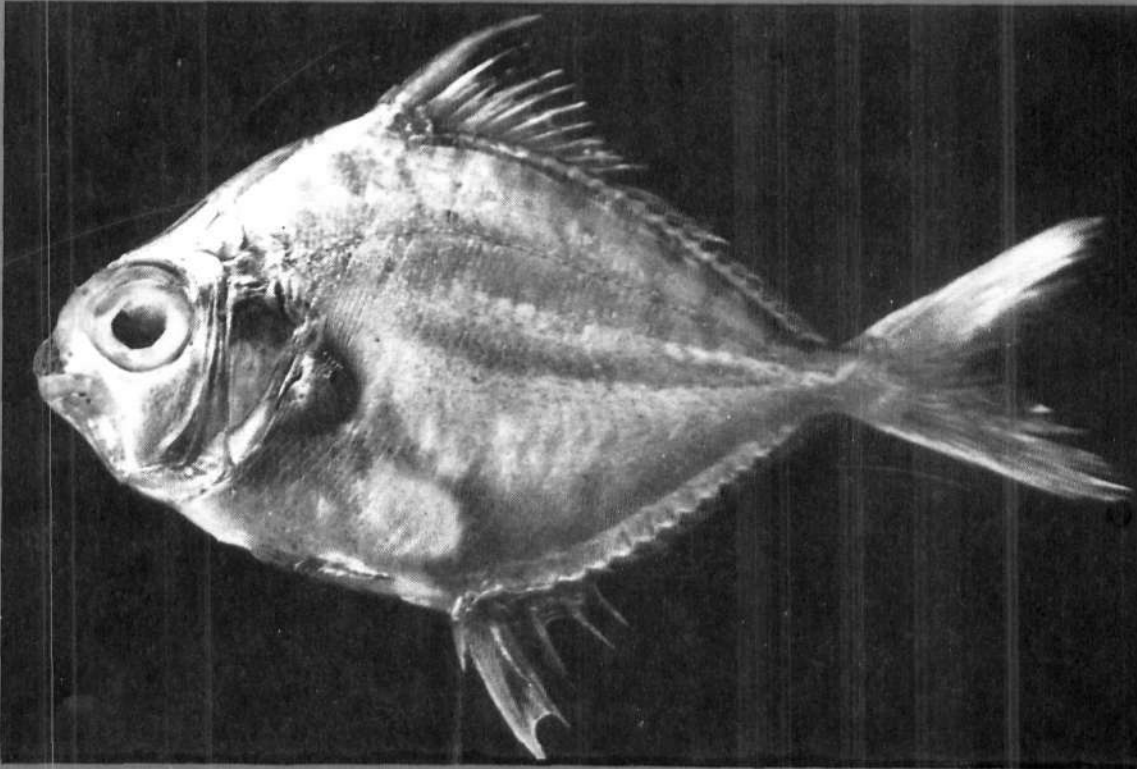




समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा  
**MARINE FISHERIES  
INFORMATION SERVICE**

No. 113

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1991



तकनीकी एवं TECHNICAL AND  
विस्तार अंकावली EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES  
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

## ON THE LANDING OF A RARE SALTWATER CROCODILE *CROCODYLUS POROSUS* AT DIBBAPALEM, SOUTH OF VISAKHAPATNAM\*

A rare sub-adult male saltwater crocodile of the species *Crocodilus porosus* measuring 2.14 m in length was caught alive from the sea in a nylon shore seine at Dibbapalem, 15 km south of Visakhapatnam on the afternoon of 6th March, 1991. The fishermen transported the animal to a nearby tidal pool where it was kept alive for one night. On receiving information of the incident at the Research Centre, the reporter made arrangements to bring the crocodile to the Visakhapatnam Fisheries Harbour where it was exhibited for public viewing. On the same day the animal was taken to the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam where it is kept in captivity.

Though the crocodile was alive and ferocious some morphometric measurements could be taken on 7th March, 1991 as detailed below.

Total length (from tip of snout to end of tail)	214 cm
Length of head	42 cm
Maximum width of head	16 cm
Maximum width at dorsal side	28 cm
Distance between eyes	3 cm

Length between commencement of eye to tip of snout	19 cm
Length of upper jaw (length between commencement of upper jaw to tip of snout)	26 cm
Length of lower jaw (length between commencement of lower jaw to tip of snout)	24 cm
Length between anus to tip of tail	108 cm
No. of double scutes (on dorsal side) over caudal region	20
No. of single scutes (on dorsal side) over caudal region	19
No. of longitudinal body scutes on dorsal side (3 longitudinal body scutes on either side of middle one)	7
Approximate weight	55 kg

Hind limbs paddle like, each with 4 fingers; nails of fingers large and vary in length. Fore limbs each with 5 detached fingers each with large nails of different sizes. According to the Curator of the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, the specimen is a 5-6 year old sub-adult, male. Pale-yellowish thick square type of plates of different sizes present on ventral side. The specimen was deep yellow with black patches over the dorsal surface of the body.



*Crocodylus porosus*

#### Remarks

Out of the twenty one species of crocodiles recognised in the world, only three species are found in India, namely the riverine crocodile, Gharial, *Gavialis gangeticus* Schneider inhabiting the rivers and large streams, the fresh water crocodile, Mugger, *Crocodylus palustris* Schneider inhabiting in confined waters like ponds, lakes and reservoirs and the Saltwater crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* Schneider inhabiting gener-

ally the low saline waters like tidal creeks, estuaries, mangrove environment, backwaters and lagoons. Among the various species of crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* is known to grow to the largest size of over 8 m, very aggressive and ferocious. Saltwater crocodile is known to be notorious and voracious carnivorous feeder, feeding mainly on fishes, crustaceans, molluscs, insects and other animals.

In India the saltwater crocodile is found along the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the mainland of India, the species is now restricted to an area of 176 sq. km in Bhitarkanika Sanctuary in Orissa and in Sunderbans. According to Shri K. Tulasi Rao, Assistant Curator (Crocodiles), Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam a very large sized *Crocodylus porosus* measuring a little over 6.30 m in total length was present at Bhitarkanika Wild Life Sanctuary in Orissa in 1980. The Government of India declared these animals as endangered species under Wild Life Protection Act of 1972, imposing a ban on killing, trading, exporting or possessing them.

---

\*Reported by: C. V. Seshagiri Rao, Visakhapatnam Research Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam - 530 003.