

RECORD OF THE OCEANIC SQUID
SYMPLECTOTEUTHIS OUALANIENSIS (LESSON) CAUGHT
OFF MANGROL, SAURASHTRA COAST

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ABSTRACT

A female specimen of the oceanic squid *Symplectoteuthis oualaniensis* (Lesson) measuring 434 mm in mantle length and 2.460 kg in weight caught by drift net off Mangrol is reported, giving the morphometric measurements.

A single female specimen of the oceanic squid *Symplectoteuthis oualaniensis* (Lesson) was caught in a drift gill net (150 mm mesh) off Mangrol, from an area 80 m in depth, in Saurashtra coast on February 6, 1986 (Fig. 1). The specimen measured 434 mm in dorsal mantle length and 2.460 kg in weight. Both the tentacles had been mutilated. The gonad was in maturing condition and the gut was full with thoroughly macerated and pulpy food.

The measurements of the specimen are:

Dorsal mantle length	434 mm
Ventral mantle length	418 mm
Breadth of mantle	174 mm
Largest breadth of mantle with fins	334 mm
Maximum mantle thickness	7.5 mm
Length of head	100 mm
Breadth of head	105 mm
Length of fin	208 mm
Fin angle	64°
Diameter of largest sucker	10 mm
Diameter of smallest sucker	4 mm
Outer diameter of mouth	33 mm
Inner diameter of mouth	25 mm

The distribution of this squid in Arabian sea has been given by Filippova (1968) and Silas (1969). It is of interest that this squid has been caught at a

shallow region of 80 m depth, since it is generally known to occur only in oceanic waters. This species is known to carry out diurnal vertical migrations from the surface at night to deeper layers during day (Roper et al 1984).



FIG. 1. *Symplectoteuthis oualaniensis* (female) caught off Mangrol. Left: dorsal view. Right: ventral view.

The size (dorsal mantle length) of the present specimen is also one of the largest known, next only to the sizes recorded by R. V. Shoya Maru, which had caught 23 squids of this species from the north Arabian sea at Lat. 23.49.1'N and Long. 63.41'E in November 1976 in hand lines. The sizes of the Shoya Maru specimens were 174 to 488 mm, the latter one weighing as much as 4 kg, though Roper et al (1984) later indicated the maximum size to be 350 mm only.

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