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OCCURRENCE OF WAHOO, ORIENTAL BONITO AND BIGEYE TUNA OFF KARWAR*

With the advent of purse seines in Karnataka, besides the traditional catches of oil sardine and mackerel, of late, other resources are coming to light in the coastal waters of this state.

On 1st October 1982, a purse seine landed a few numbers of seer fishes and amongst them was a lone Wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri*. It measured 1 m in total length and weighed 5 kg. This is the first time that the occurrence of this species has been noticed in the inshore waters of the west coast other than at Vizhinjam and Colachel situated at the extreme southwest coast of India. This indicates a northern extension of the distribution of Wahoo along the west coast.

Purse seines landed considerable quantities of little tunny, *Euthynnus affinis* also on 8th October 1982 at Karwar. A closer examination of the catches resulted in the detection of three numbers of Oriental bonito, *Sarda orientalis*. They measured 272 mm, 280 mm and 292 mm in total length, weighing 225 g, 261 g

and 332 g respectively, and all of them with sexes indeterminate.

A few numbers of bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus* were landed by driftnet units on 19th October at Karwar. Their total length and weight ranged from 375 mm to 425 mm and from 629 g to 833 g respectively.

The occurrence of *Sarda orientalis* from the coastal area of the west coast was also reported earlier from Vizhinjam and that of *T.obesus* from Kavarthi and Lakshadweep seas. The present observations tend to show that they have extended distribution in the coastal waters of the west coast and chances of these species coming into commercial exploitation cannot be ruled out.

Incidentally, *Acanthocybium solandri* and *Sarda orientalis* have also been reported from the area between 15° and 24° N. (55-360 m zone) during the exploratory surveys of M.T. Murena (Bapat et al., Bull. Cent. mar. Fish. Res. Inst. 33, 1982).

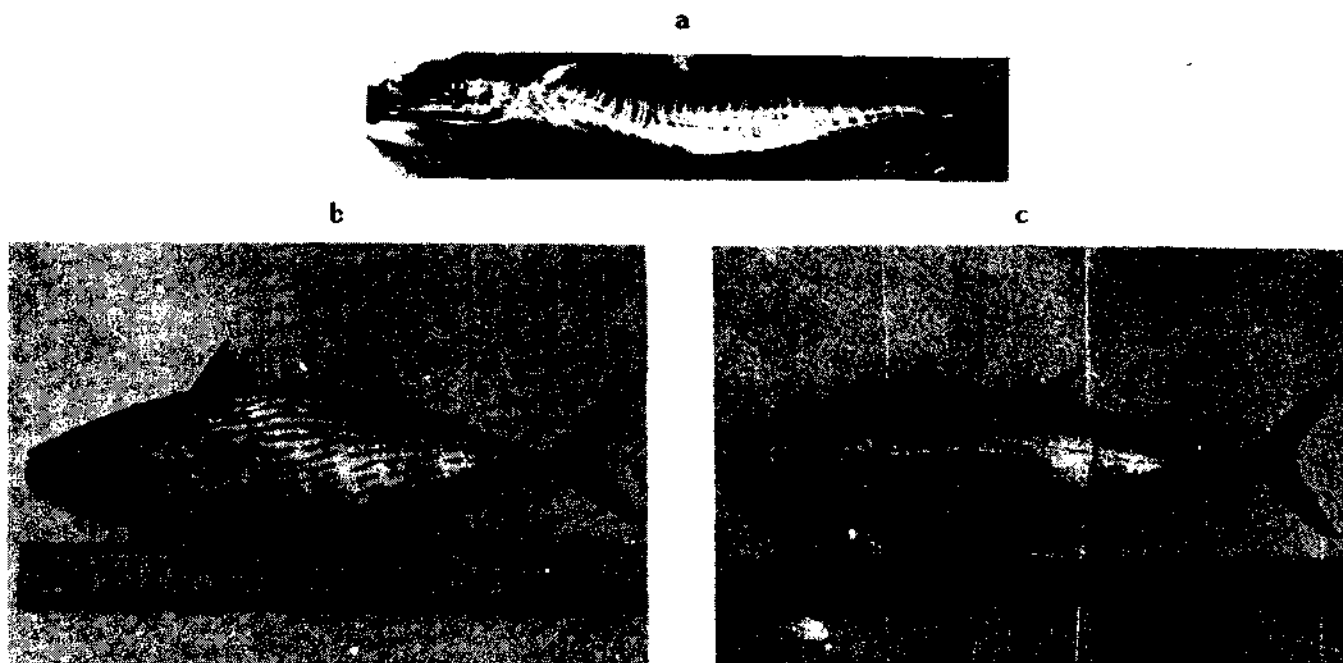


Fig.1. a) *Acanthocybium solandri*, b) *Sarda orientalis* c) *Thunnus obesus*

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