Pathological studies indicated the presence of bacteria, *Streptococcus* sp. (100,000 CFU/ml). Sensitivity test indicated that the bacteria are sensitive to Chloramphenicol and Tobromucin. Observation of the infected tissue smear under the microscope revealed the presence of large fungi with branched hyphae and macroconidia revealed the possibilities of fungus infection too (Fig. 3). The application of antibiotic (a mixture of Chloramphenicol and Oxytetracycline, 25 ppm each) is found to be effective for moderately infected specimens with frequent exchange of filtered sea water. Highly infected specimen will seldom respond to antibiotics and have to be discarded, as it is the only way to rescue the remaining ones. Recently in the hatchery such skin lesion disease has also been observed in hatchery produced juveniles of *H.scabra*. Small juveniles less than 5mm size were severely affected causing mass mortality.

So far no information is available on the disease on *H.scabra*, hence detailed epidemiological studies on the etiological agents, morphological, physiological, biochemical and pathological studie have to be conducted in future for effective broodstock management in the holothurian's hatchery.

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**Manta birostris landed at Tuticorin**

On 31.03.2006 one female *Manta birostris* measuring 370 cm in total length 620 cm in breadth and weighing 1550 kg was caught by "singi valai" (a type of bottom set gill net) from a depth of 40 m off Tuticorin and brought to Tuticorin north landing centre.

Prior to the present landing, on four occasions devil rays landings were encountered along Tuticorin Coast and the present one claims the maximum size recorded so far.

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