

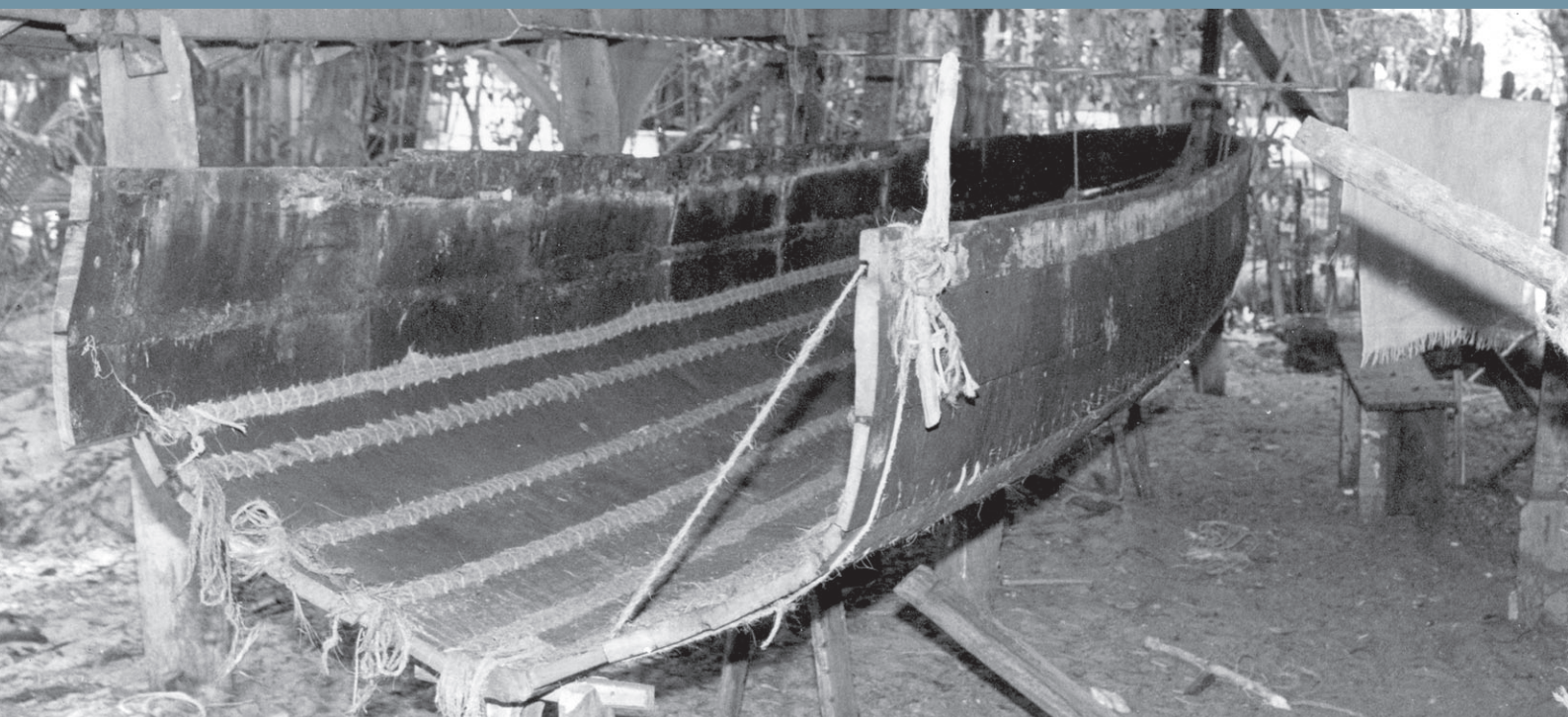
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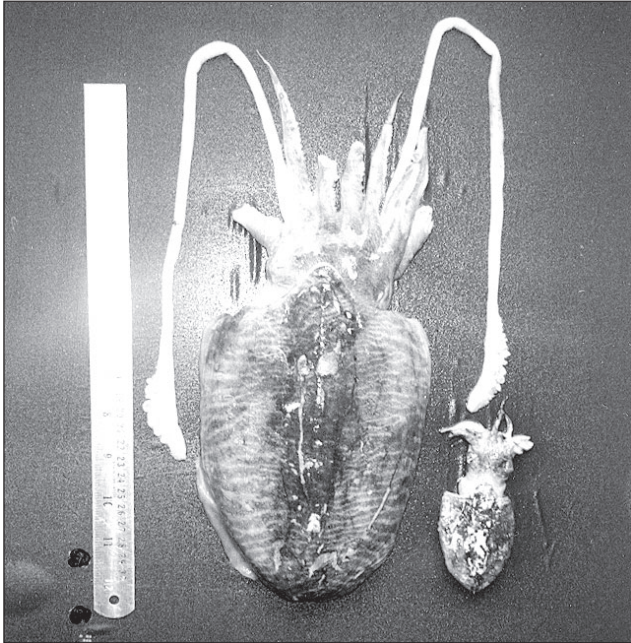
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

## Landings of juveniles of *Sepia pharonis* (Ehrenberg, 1831) and *Loligo duvauceli* in trawl catches at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai.

Juveniles of cephalopods such as *Sepiella innermis*, *Sepia aculeata* and *Loligo duvauceli* were observed at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai throughout the year as the trawlnet with code end mesh of 10mm, but the occurrence of juveniles of *Sepia pharonis* was rare. On close monitoring it was observed that even juveniles of *Sepia pharonis* do occur in March-April and it constitutes about 10% of the total *Sepia pharonis* catch. Due to its close resemblance to *Sepia aculeata* the catch was sold alongwith *Sepia aculeata*. As the catch of juveniles of *Sepia pharonis* were overlooked, its occurrence were not reported from this region. On close observation *Sepia pharonis* juveniles were easily distinguished from the juveniles of other cuttlefish especially by the cuttlebone in which all the characteristic features of the species

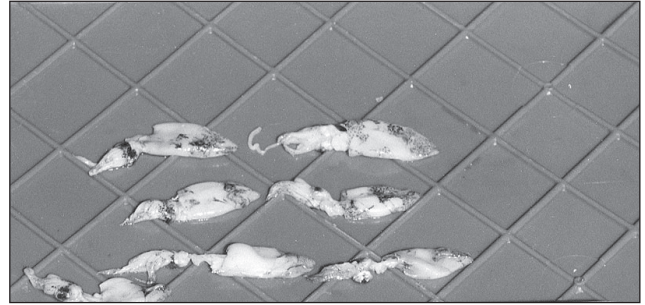
are apparent. The size ranged between 40-80 mm. *Sepia pharonis* is caught mainly from depths beyond 30m. During the reproductive season, it migrates shoreward and aggregates in shallow waters. Spawning takes place throughout the year with peak from October to December and March to April on the west coast. On the west coast they grow to 140mm in six months suggesting that the reported catch of juveniles landed at New Ferry Wharf with a size range of 40-80 mm were less than six months old. Monthly average landings ranged between 0.28 t in June to a maximum of 88.23 t in February.

*Loligo duvauceli* locally known as Nal makul forms a major component of cephalopod fishery off Mumbai. It spawns throughout the year along both the coasts,



Adult and juvenile of *Sepia pharonis* (Ehrenberg, 1831)

but along the west coast peak spawning has been observed during post monsoon. On 18.1.03 at New Ferry



Juveniles of *Loligo duvauceli*

Wharf about 300kg of *Loligo duvauceli* juveniles (25-49mm) were landed.

The landings of *Sepia pharonis* have declined from 893.4t in 2001 to 456.1 t in 2003. Capture of juveniles of such an important resource like *Sepia pharonis* and *L. duvauceli* require monitoring and appropriate conservation measures.

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