

A RECORD OF AN OOZING *ELEUTHERONEMA TETRADACTYLUM*
(SHAW) FROM MANGALORE

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ABSTRACT

An oozing female *Eleutheronema tetradactylum* (Shaw) caught in a gill net from the inshore waters off Mangalore is recorded, as mature specimens are known only from the creeks around Bombay. The number of the transparent ova ready for liberation is estimated.

Two specimens of *Eleutheronema tetradactylum* (Shaw) (locally known as *Vameenu*) were obtained on 22-12-1979 from a gill net operated in 25-30 m area off Mangalore. One was a female and the other was a male and both measured 75 cm in total length. The female was in a very-near-oozing condition and a few ova had already emerged out of the oviduct. On applying slight

pressure on the abdomen the ova were easily extruded and were collected in a beaker. About 80% of the ova were collected this way. The ova were transparent and each had a single oil globule. The diameter of ova (preserved in formalin) varied from 0.54 mm to 0.78 mm and the oil globules varied from 0.17 to 0.24 mm. It appeared that the species would release ova in batches. The fecundity computed from the extruded ova was 11,01,120, which apparently were of a single batch for release.

The occurrence of *E. tetradactylum* in such near-oozing condition indicated that the spawning area was, if not the inshore waters, not away from it. Chacko (1949) and Karandikar and Palekar (1950) too had reported similar spawning sites. The eggs were similar in description as given by Bal and Pradhan (1945, 1946) and Bapat and Bal (1950).

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