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OCCURRENCE OF ELONGATED LOWER CAUDAL FIN RAY IN MALES OF NEMIPTERUS JAPONICUS*

During the course of investigations on the fishery and biology of nemipterid fishes in the trawl catches of Veraval, 264 male specimens of *Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch) were noticed with lower caudal fin ray produced into a filament (Fig. 1), in addition to the characteristic long filament on the upper caudal lobe (Fig. 2).

Out of the 264 specimens observed in trawl catches 87 males of *N. japonicus* collected during December 1984 - February 1987 were examined in detail. The length of the elongated ray of lower caudal lobe varied from 4.0 to 32.10 mm in specimens ranging from 154 to 215 mm in standard length.

*Prepared by S. G. Raje and V. D. Deshmukh, Bombay Research Centre of CMFRI, Bombay - 400 001.

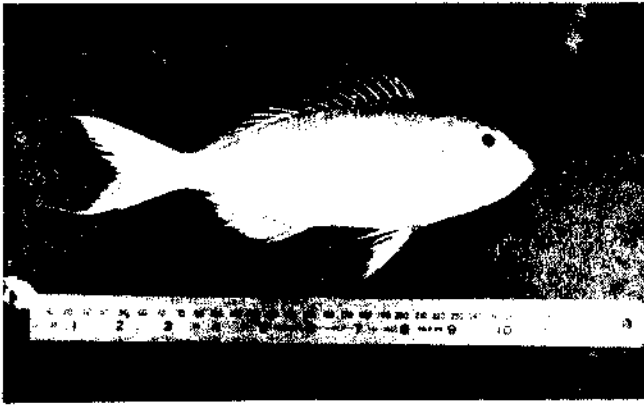


Fig. 1. Male of *Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch) with elongated lower caudal fin ray.

Except for slightly smaller depth of body and smaller eye diameter, all the meristic and morphometric characters of the present material conform to the available descriptions. The colouration, which is one of the important characters in the family Nemipteridae also conforms to the available discription, except for

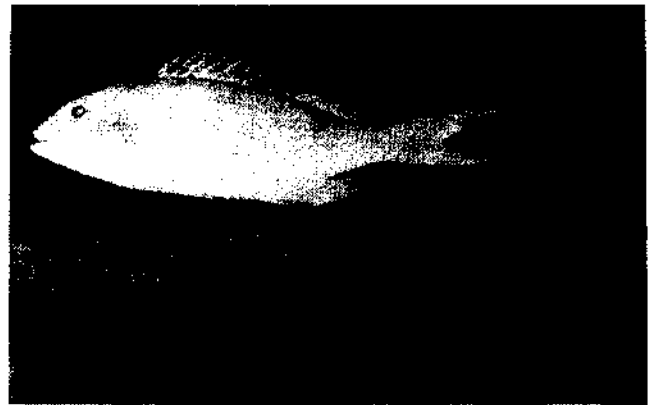


Fig. 2. Male of *Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch) without elongated lower caudal fin ray.

the elongated ray of the lower caudal lobe, which is red.

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