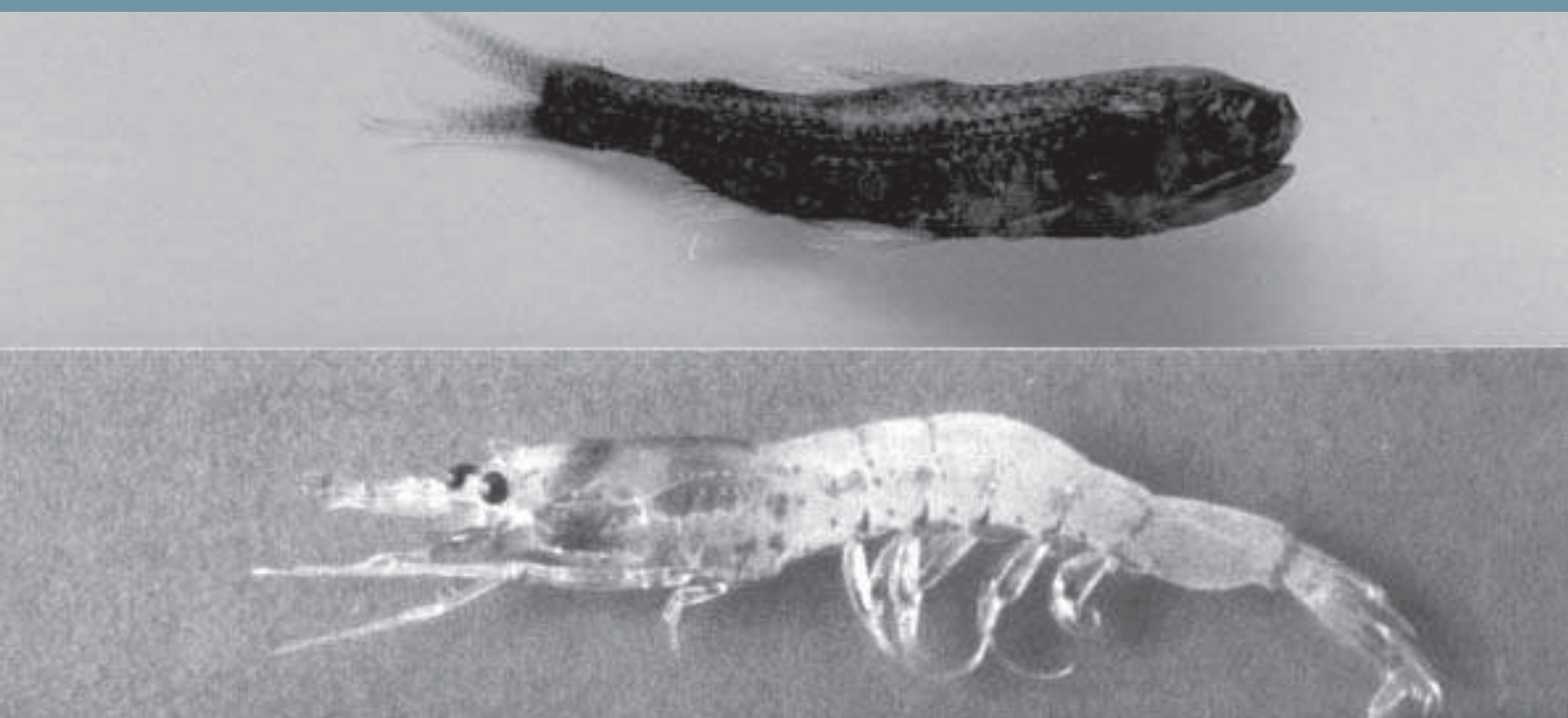




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1101 Occurrence of juveniles of *Platax* sp. in inshore waters of Mumbai

Platax sp. commonly called angelfish, sea bat or leaf fish belong to the family Platacidae have been landed in trawlers and Purse seiners at New Ferry wharf and Sasoon Dock in October and November for the last four years. The total length ranges between 300 to 450 mm

and fetches a market price of Rs. 30 per kg. In October '03 landings of adult *Platax* sp. was exceptionality good at Sasoon Docks with a landing of 7,103 kg.

Juveniles of *Platax* sp. were observed in *dol* net catches

for the first time this year in December '03 at New Ferry wharf and Sasoan Docks. The total length ranged between 100-120 mm. Juveniles are discarded, while the adults fetch good price in the local market, as they are edible and palatable. It is quite possible that this unusual landing of juveniles in *dol* nets in good numbers was due to the young ones coming into the shallow waters to escape strong currents and perhaps for the search of food. They are usually found in shallow waters among weeds, sea grass or coral and small specimens of *Platax* sp. are very popular aquarium fishes. The black vertical bars on the body fade with age.



Juvenile of *Platax* sp.

The young have extremely elongated and elevated dorsal and anal fins, which become shortened as they mature.

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