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ON THE RECORD OF THE LARGEST SPECIMEN OF THE ENGRAVED CATFISH *TACHYSURUS CAELATUS* (VALENCIENNES, 1840)*

A female specimen of *Tachysurus caelatus* measuring 975 mm in total length and weighing 8.5 kg was landed by a commercial trawler at Rameswaram landing centre on 8th September, 1988. The fish was caught from a depth of about 12 m in the Palk Bay.

The identity of the specimen was confirmed by the following characteristic features:

- Tip of dorsal spine produced into a long filament.

* Reported by P. Jayasankar, Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.

- Teeth on palate villiform, in one small patch on each side, each patch roughly triangular-shaped, with inner edge convex.
- Head length and length of dorsal spine almost equal.

According to Fisher & Bianchi (FAO species identification sheets, Western Indian Ocean, Area 51, Vol. 1, 1984), the species attains a maximum length of 450 mm. Menon (*CMFRI Bull.*, 40: 8, 1987) had mentioned that *T. caelatus* grows to about 600 mm. The present record of the fish is the largest size of the species.

