

ON A RECORD-SIZED MACKEREL *RASTRELLIGER KANAGURTA*
CAUGHT OFF KARWAR

M. H. DEULKHED AND G. G. ANNIGERI
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute Centre, Karwar.

ABSTRACT

A mackerel 360 mm in total length and 560 g in weight caught by a purse-seiner off Karwar is reported.

The estimated L_{∞} for Indian mackerel *Rastrelliger kanagurta* is 316 mm (Ramamohan Rao et al 1962). Nevertheless, the maximum size noticed earlier is 348 mm (Dhawan 1976). But, in the present observation, a mackerel of 360 mm total length is reported, which is a record for the Indian waters.

A purse-seiner, Pushpanjali, landed 500 mackerels, which were caught in a depth of 10-12 m off Karwar on April 14, 1982. The size range of the mackerels was 235-269 mm, with the mode at 252 mm. However, amongst them was a lone specimen, which attracted great attention. It measured 360 mm in total length and weighed 560 g (Fig. 1), both measurements being records for this species in Indian waters.

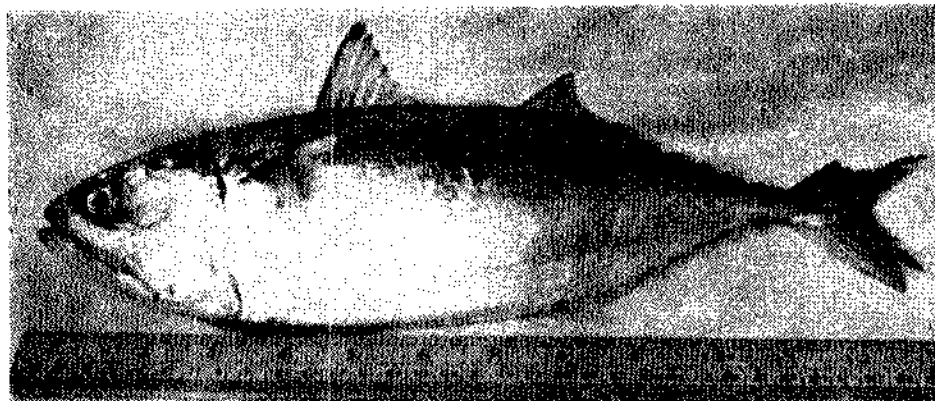


FIG. 1 Photograph showing the mackerel after having removed from cold-storage.

The morphometric measurements of the specimen were:

Total length	360 mm
Standard length	301 mm
Head length	82 mm
Inter-orbital distance	111 mm
Pre-orbital distance	91 mm
Pre-ventral distance	102 mm
Pre-posterior dorsal distance	183 mm
Pre-anal distance	192 mm
Anterior-dorsal fin base length	49 mm
Anal fin base length	34 mm
Maximum height of body	83 mm
Snout length	25 mm
Eye diameter	15 mm
Pectoral fin length	39 mm
Anterior dorsal height	43 mm
Posterior dorsal height	28 mm
Ventral fin length	24 mm

The specimen was male, in stage III of maturity. Unfortunately, the caudal fin got slightly frayed while the fish was kept in cold-storage.

REFERENCES

- DHAWAN, R. M. 1976. *Mahasagar*, 9: 87-88.
- RAMAMOCHAN RAO, V., K. V. SEKCHARAN AND M. J. PRADHAN. 1962. *Indian J. Fish.*, 9(2): 653-678.