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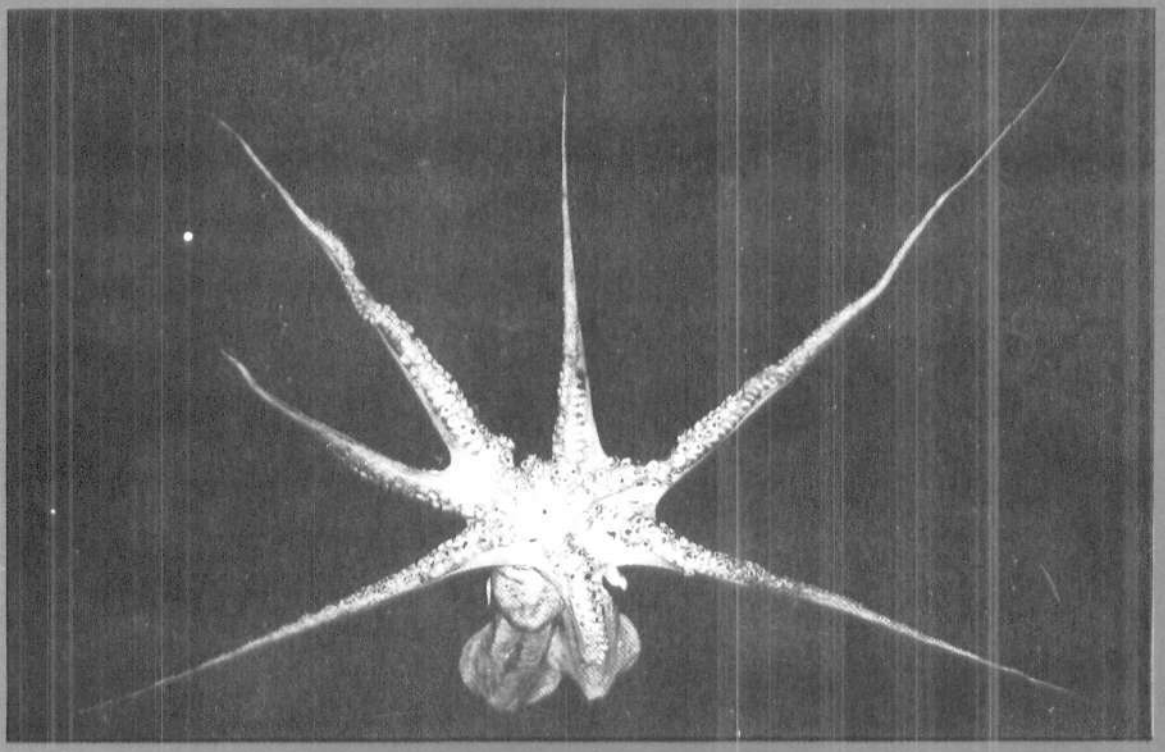

तकनीकी एवं विस्तार अंकावली
TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान, कोचिन, भारत
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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

877 A record of sun fish *Mola mola* from coastal waters at Veraval

TABLE 1. *Morphometric measurements (in mm) of* Mola mola caught at Veraval

Particulars	Fish specimens			
	1	2	3	4
Total length	1,000	870	1,030	900
Breadth at the middle region	650	620	700	750
Weight (kg)	46	40	49	43
Length of dorsal fin	440	430	450	400
Length of anal fin (mm)	410	400	420	400
Snout to anal fin insertion	780	660	800	660
Snout to dorsal fin insertion	640	560	660	610
Eye diameter-horizontal	50	50	50	50
Eye diameter - vertical	40	40	40	40
Pectoral fin base breadth	50	50	50	45
Dorsal fin base breadth	200	150	200	160
Anal fin base breadth	170	160	170	160
Snout to insertion of pectoral	300	300	300	280
Length of gill slit	50	50	50	50
Inter-orbital distance	280	260	280	260
Dorsal fin tip to anal fin tip	1500	1300	1500	1400
Pectoral fin length	140	100	140	120
Eyeball to snout	150	140	150	150
Sex	Male	Male		
Liver weight (g)	1000	1250		
Gut length (m)	2.29	2.60		
Gut length-body length ratio	2.39:1	2.50 : 1		

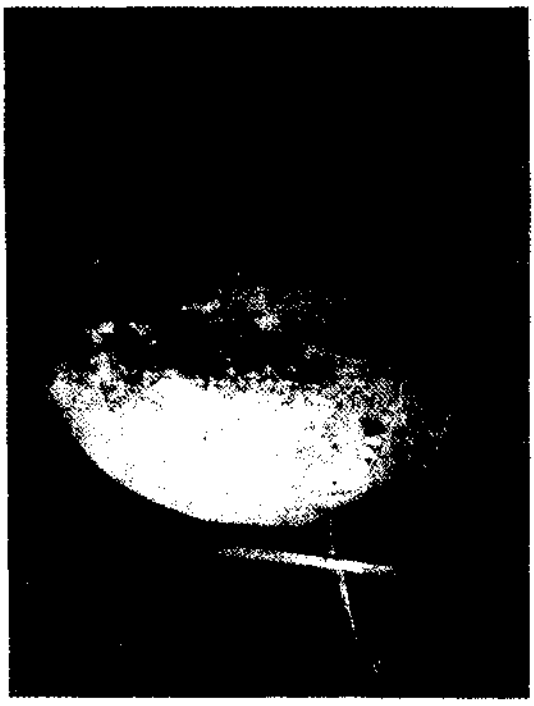

Fig. 1. Sunfish *Mola Mola* landed at veraval.

Fig. 2. One of the specimens being weighed.

Fishes belonging to the family Molidae, commonly called as ocean sun fishes or head fishes and known as 'Kakhida' locally, are frequently observed in the trawl net landings at Bhidia fish landing centre of Veraval, mostly during the post-winter months. Though they are known to occur widely in warmer oceanic regions and inhabit open waters upto 200-300 m depth, the present report is on speciments caught from the coastal waters. These fishes occur either solitary or in small schools and are known for their peculi-

Fig. 3. Sunfish cut open showing the coiled intestine, gill chamber, gill lamellae and the sucker fish.

Fig. 4. The uncoiled intestine of *Mola mola*.

ar drifting nature. Three general of this family have so far been identified, namely, *Ranzania*, *Masturus* and *Mola*.

Four male sun fishes, (Linnaeus, 1758) were caught by trawl nets operating off Veraval at 25-50 m depth in March 1997 (Figs 1-4). The morphometric measurements of the specimens are listed in Table 1. A sucker fish Remora sp. was found attached in the gill cavity (Fig. 3).

The authors are thankful to the survey staff Ms. Y.D. Savaria, J.D. Vanvi and J.P. Polara and the field assistants for assisting in the course of the work.

Reported by B. Manoj Kumar, Joe, K. Kozhakudan, Sujitha Thomas and A.P. Dineshbabu, Veraval Research Centre of C.M.F.R.I., Veraval - 362 269, India.

Since the occurrence of this species is reported for the first time along the Kakinada coast, few morphometric measurements recorded on the specimen in mm are given below :

Total length	-	488
Standard length	-	387
Head length	-	122
Snout to pectoral base	-	106
Pectoral fin lengt	-	75
Dorswal fin length	-	209
Pelvic fin length	-	64
Anal fin length	-	85

Fin ray counts : Dorsal : X+10, Anal : 11+9, Pectoral : 1+13, Pelvic : 1+5

Reported by N. Burayya, Kakinada Research Centre of CMFRI, Kakinada - 533 004. □

881 BOOK REVIEW

Title	:	**A Field Guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands**
Editor	:	**Mathew, D. Richmond**
Publisher	:	**The Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)**
Price	:	**Ł 20; $ 32**
ISBN	:	**91-630-4594-X**
Year of publication	:	**1997**
No. of pages	:	**448**
Size	:	**165 x 242 mm**
Binding	:	**Paperback**

Since the UNCED declaration on "protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi enclosed seas and coastal areas and protection, rational use and development of their living resources", there has been a growing awareness the world over to organise environmental conservation programme, to preserve the coastal biodiversity and the habitats, to encourage the development that minimise negative impacts on coastal live support systems. As the zone is of immense importance and diverse economic use to man, the marine nations realised the priorities and as such developed many management plans. The book under review "**A guide to the Seashores of Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Islands**" edited by **Matthew, D. Richmond** is first step to achieve the priortities in ICZM plan. It is an excellent compilation of all sea shore/coastal related patterns, processes and biological diversities in the tropical waters of Eastern Africa and Oceanic Islands presented through 448 papers, 154 colour plates and 8 colour maps. This book is the result of 6 years preparation and contribution of 48 authors from 14 countries. The complexity involved in the subject matter and their editing is admirable.

Although the central theme of the book is the taxonomic description of species occurring in the seashores and coastal habitats, the introduction spread over 39 pages provides valuable information on the problems, prospects and developmental needs in the seashore for future generations. This introduction itself is the contributions of 9 authors and very briefly touches diverse aspects. Here the editor has carefully integrated all relevant geological, physical, chemical and biological processes that have taken place in the shore habitats like mangroves, sea grass beds, rocky shores and cliffs, lagoons, coral reefs, biodiversity and ecological interactions, the people and their historical, social and economic background, livelihood activities like mangrove harvest, coral mining, coir rope manufacture, salt production, fishing, acqaculture of sea weeds, bathsponage, crustaceans molluscs and fishes; the traditional