

The form assigned by Lele and Gae to *Sagitta bombayensis* agrees in all systematic details with the widely distributed species—*Sagitta robusta* Doncaster. Sketches and tables by Burfield and Harvey (1926) show that *S. robusta* presents variations within the specific limit and that *S. ferox* Doncaster is a synonym of *S. robusta*. The following table will show that *S. bombayensis* agrees, practically in all characters, with *S. robusta*. The description of the latter is based on the details given by Doncaster (1902), Burfield and Harvey (1926), John (1933) and also on Michael's description of *S. ferox* (1919).

<i>S. bombayensis</i> , Lele and Gae	<i>S. robusta</i> Doncaster
Head is broad and short	Head broad and thick. The shape of the head varies according to the condition of prehensile spines
Collarette thick up to ventral ganglion	Collarette well developed extending to ventral ganglion and in some cases to anterior fin
Body opaque and bodywall muscular	Body firm and opaque, musculature strong
A thickened epidermis extends nearly all through the length of the body	Epidermis is thickened behind the head
The posterior fin is equally short as the anterior fin	The anterior fin may be as long as or longer than posterior, but generally slightly shorter
Posterior fin widest in the middle of its caudal half	Posterior fin widest behind the septum
Tail is $\frac{1}{4}$ the body in length	Tail is 25 to 32 per cent. of the body
Distance between genital openings is about 12 per cent. in large specimens	Distance between genital opening is 13 per cent (smaller specimens)
Anterior fin and posterior fin separated by $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the fins	Length of the posterior fin 18 to 20 per cent. of the body. Anterior fin to posterior fin is 7.8 per cent. of the body. Hence distance between the fin is $\frac{1}{3}$ nearly
Prehensile jaws 9-10	Prehensile jaws 5-8
Anterior teeth 4-10	Anterior teeth 6-8
Posterior teeth 8-26	Posterior teeth 11-16

**SAGITTA BOMBAYENSIS, LELE AND
GAE—A SYNONYM OF SAGITTA
ROBUSTA DONCASTER—WITH A
RECORD OF SAGITTA PULCHRA
DONCASTER, FROM INDIAN COASTAL
WATERS***

IN the course of a detailed study of chaetognaths of the coastal waters of the different parts of India, some errors in the account of 'The common Sagittæ of the Bombay Harbour' by Lele and Gae (1936) have come to light. Russell (1936) and Kemp (1938) have pointed out the importance of *Sagitta* as an indicator of water movements which have in turn a bearing on fishery problems and the need for proper classification.

While describing species of *Sagitta*, it is customary to record the measurements of the collarette, ventral ganglion, anterior and posterior fins, distance between the fins, tail septum and seminal vesicles of a large number of specimens, as has been done by Michael (1919), Burfield and Harvey (1926), John (1933) and Subramaniam (1940). Lele and Gae do not observe this convention,

but base their description on three specimens, two of which are immature, although their species is stated to occur in swarms during the monsoon period. In instituting this species, they rely on only two characters—the number of prehensile jaws and teeth and the thick epidermis, while according to John (1933), the jaws and teeth fall off at times, while the thickened epidermis occurs also in *S. pulchra*, *S. ferox* and *S. regularis* (vide Doncaster, 1902).

S. robusta has been recorded from Madras (John, 1933) and the Gulf of Manaar (Varadarajan and Chacko, 1942). It has been described as a common species of *Sagitta* of the Indian Ocean by Doncaster (1902), Fowler (1906) and Burfield and Harvey (1926). Comparison of the specimens from both the coasts of India with Lele and Gae's species from Bombay, makes it evident that the latter is a synonym of *S. robusta* Doncaster as is *S. gardineri* Doncaster a synonym of *S. enflata* Grassi (vide Burfield and Harvey, 1926) recorded by John (1933) and Menon (1945) from the east and west coasts of India respectively.

A study of the plankton collections from Bombay enables me to record *S. neglecta* Aida, *S. tenuis* Conant and *S. pulchra* Doncaster, of which the last named is the first record from Indian Coastal waters.

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