crevices. The samples were brought to the laboratory for length-weight analysis. The shells had darker shade (Fig. 1). Shell length (L) was measured using a digital caliper and total weight (W) (+ 0.01 g) was determined using an electronic balance after the specimens were dried on blotting paper. A total of 675 specimens ranging in length from 14 to 89 mm with the corresponding weight ranging from 0.495 to 37.612 g were analysed over a period of four years from January 2005 to December 2008.

Length-weight relationships were obtained with regression analysis by the method of ‘least squares’ based on individual measurements. The relationship of the length and weight is expressed by Le Cren’s (1951) equation and graphically represented (Fig. 2). The length-weight relationship of *P. viridis* from Versova creek is expressed as \( W = 0.00035 \times L^{2.67035} \) (\( r^2 = 0.8836 \)).

![Fig. 2. Scatter plot of length-weight relationship of *Perna viridis* from Versova creek, Mumbai](image)

*P. viridis* from Versova creek can be used as an indicator organism for pollution assessment and also to assess the stress caused by pollution on the ecosystem.

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**Record of inarticulate Brachiopoda, *Lingula* sp. from mangrove areas in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra and its unusual commercial exploitation**

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The Brachiopoda or ‘lamp shells’ belong to an ancient phylum of filter feeding marine worms. They live inside a pair of shells much like the bivalve; however, brachiopods differ from bivalves in many ways. Their shells have a definite dorsal and ventral (upper and lower) half, while bivalves, which are molluscs, have left and right halves to their shells. The brachiopods are so different internally that they have been grouped under separate phylum. *Lingula* is a genus of brachiopods with about eleven species within the family lingulidae.

During October 2009, on a field visit to Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, it was observed that in the local fish market *Lingula* sp. was being sold along with a host of other bivalve species. On enquiry, it was understood that this species is considered a delicacy by the locals and fetched a good price in the market. The meat inside the shell and the peduncle are both used for consumption. However, some people had some reservations on its consumption as it leads to some sort of acidic problems later. The local fishermen hand pick them from nearby mangrove areas during lowtide and market them in the local market in fresh condition.

Samples from the market were brought to the laboratory for further biological analysis. The length
was measured using a digital caliper and total body weight (±0.01 g) was determined using an electronic balance after the specimens were dried on blotting paper. The *Lingula* sp. was brown-bright green in colour (Fig. 1). Fifty three specimens were measured for individual length and weight. The length ranged from 45 mm to 58 mm with the corresponding total weight ranging from 4.251 g to 10.089 g with the maximum number of animals in 50-54 mm size group. Specimens were dissected to study the food items but could not ascertain them as they are filter feeders feeding exclusively on detritus from mangrove areas. Further investigations are to be undertaken on this important resource.

**Fig. 1. Lamp shell *Lingula* sp.**

**Resurgence of whitefish in trawl landings of Mangalore**

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*Lactarius lactarius*, commonly known as false trevally is exploited mainly by trawlers from the inshore waters (5-30 m depth) along the Karnataka coast. Bottom-set gillnets and purseseines also land minor quantities of whitefish, besides the indigenous gears operated during monsoon. The average annual production of false trevally from multiday trawls operated along Mangalore coast remained at 416 t during the period from 2000 to 2002. A declining trend in the fishery was noticed since the year 2000 consequent to reduction in catch rates and the production reached an all-time low of 117 t in 2004. Thereafter, the catch rates in multiday trawl improved significantly from 0.09 kg h⁻¹ in 2004 to an annual average of 0.33 kg h⁻¹ in 2008 (Fig. 1). During the year, 50% of the annual whitefish landing was observed in October-November months, when the catch rates increased from 0.6 to 0.8 kg h⁻¹. The recent spurt in the total production along the coast was consequent to the high catch rates in the bottom trawlers operated at 10-20 m depth. It is reported that 30-60 kg of whitefish was hauled per net by multi-day trawl in November. The trawl units landed 200-800 kg per trip during the month. The size range of the fishery during the period varied from 110-230 mm with modal length at 160 mm. Gravid and maturing fishes formed 85% during the post-monsoon period.

![Graph](image)

**Fig. 1. Annual catch and catch rates of *Lactarius lactarius* in multiday trawlers at Mangalore**