The species has worldwide distribution in temperate and tropical waters. The body of *O. Vulgaris* is bulky; arms broad, moderately long and very robust at bases. The third left arm of males is shorter as compared to females of the corresponding size. The species has a striking similarity with *Octopus lobensis* and *Cistopus indicus* but for its stout body and comparatively shorter arm lengths and the arrangement of suckers on the arms. According to Roper *et al.* (1984), the maximum total length of the species is 1.3 m. However, the maximum total length recorded for the species occurring at Mumbai is 40 cm.

Ten specimens of *O. vulgaris* were analysed for biological aspects. The food items were in well crushed and macerated condition and, therefore it was possible to categorise into groups only. Majority had ‘trace’ or ‘empty’ guts. The species seems to mainly feed on ‘fish’ (40%) followed by ‘crustacean remains’ (20%) and 40% was digested matter (probably ‘bivalve’ and other ‘gastropod remains’). They were all in different stages of maturity.

**Seasonal juvenile fishery of oilsardine (**Sardinella longiceps**) at Jalaripeta, Visakhapatnam**

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The Indian oilsardine *Sardinella longiceps*, locally called as ‘burra kovallu’ or ‘Kerala kovallu’ forms a juvenile fishery during October - November along the Visakhapatnam coast. This seasonal juvenile fishery is the major source of income generation for the fishermen of Jalaripeta, Visakhapatnam. The boatseine locally called as ‘chengula vala’ is used for exploiting the oilsardine juvenile population. The net with a height of 30 m and 5 mm mesh size made up of nylon webbing with 60-65 m length head rope is provided with thermocol floats and bottom rope with concrete sinkers at 5 m intermediate distance. Artisanal crafts are used to operate this gear by 13-15 fishermen involved in the operation. The fishermen are divided equally in two groups and each group occupies one boat during boatseine operation. They go at midnight for fishing which continues till next day morning and undertakes 2 - 3 drags with an average catch of 1 - 1.5 t per unit per day. There are about eight units in this fishing village which operated daily with an average production of 186 t in the month of October and 59 t in the first half of November. The size of oilsardine ranged from 64 to 101 mm in the month of October and from 77 to 118 mm in the month of November with corresponding weight range of 2.16 to 8.2 g and 3.4 to 12.2 g, respectively (Fig. 1, 2).
Heavy landings of the filefish *Aluterus monoceros* from the Gulf of Mannar

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Heavy landings of the unicorn leatherjacket filefish, *Aluterus monoceros* (Linnaeus, 1758) was observed at Pamban Therkuvady fish landing centre, landed by trawlers operating in Gulf of Mannar (Fig. 1). This fish is locally known as “clathy”. *A. monoceros* is a reef-associated species under the family Monacanthidae. Distribution of this species is circumtropical and recorded from Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Unusual heavy landings of this species at Chennai Fisheries Harbour were reported during the period from September to December, 2010.

On 30th September, 2011 large quantities of *A. monoceros* amounting to 1-2 t per boat was landed at Pamban by trawl. The trawl nets were operated in a depth range of 40-50 m, at a distance of 55-65 km from the shore. About 15 units out of 70 units landed brought heavy landings of this fish. A total of 24,350 kg of *A. monoceros* was landed on that day alone. The specimens landed had a length range of 18-35 cm and a weight range of 100-1500 g. A detailed analysis on the biology revealed that all the fish were indeterminates in both the months. The study on food and feeding showed that most of the individuals had half filled stomachs. The juveniles were sold at ₹ 8 per kg wet weight and at ₹ 20-22 per dry weight to the local fish meal agents. Their average income during these two months was ₹ 8,000-10,000 per month per fisherman, whereas in the remaining months of the year they earn around ₹ 3,000-4,000 per month per fisherman by exploitation of other resources.