

Foreign objects observed in the stomach of a cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) reared in sea cage at Karwar

Krupesha Sharma S. R., Narasimhulu Sadu, Praveen Dube and Philipose K. K.

Karwar Research Centre of CMFRI, Karwar

A cobia (4.5 kg, 40 cm) reared in the grow-out cage of Karwar Research Centre of CMFRI was found dead on 15 March 2012. Externally, erosion on pectoral and caudal fins was found. Internally, stomach portion of the alimentary canal was

enlarged. When the stomach was cut open, a betel nut (5 cm diameter) and a small plastic pouch were found inside (Fig. 1). The stomach was filled with mucus and the wall was extremely hypertrophied (Fig. 2). In the wild, cobia fish are fast swimming

carnivores that feed on a wide variety of fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans, especially crab. Cobia often follow sharks, turtles and manta rays in hope of scavenging a meal. The present finding

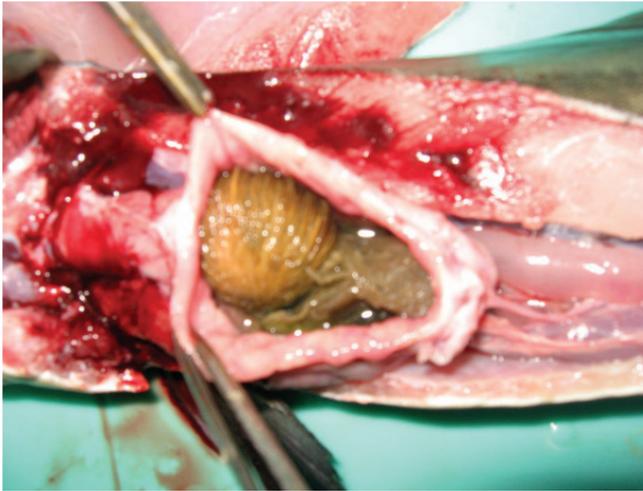


Fig. 1. Presence of a betel nut and a plastic pouch in the stomach of cobia

reveals that under confinement, the fish becomes indiscriminate eaters, feeding even on anthropogenic wastes.

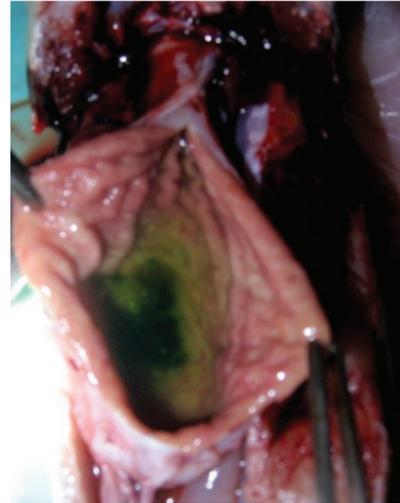


Fig. 2. Hypertrophied stomach wall of cobia