Rare landing of Indian mottled eel, *Anguilla bengalensis* (Gray, 1831) from coastal waters of Karwar

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A large sized freshwater eel, locally called ‘hemmalaga’ in Kannada and ‘kadai’ in Konkani was landed by shore-seine (Yendi) on 26-07-2013 at Aligadda landing centre in Karwar. The fish was caught live and was observed to be very active. The specimen was identified as Indian mottled eel, *Anguilla bengalensis* (Gray, 1831) of family *Anguillidae*. The specimen was an adult female with a total length of 142 cm and weight of 6.82 kg. Other morphometric measurements recorded were as follows: The dorsal fin length (96 cm), anal fin length (78.5 cm), pectoral fin length (11.5 cm), girth (32.5 cm), head length (29 cm) and head width (18 cm). The specimen appears to be the largest record of *Anguilla bengalensis* caught in the Indian coastal waters. The maximum reported length and weight of this species published in FishBase is 200 cm and 6 kg. A total length of 120 cm for this species is reported by Menon *et al* (1998). Although the length of the present specimen is only 142 cm the weight seems to be the maximum reported so far.

During the week prior to the capture of the eel there was incessant rain in Karwar and in the upper reaches of river Kali. On the previous day the crest gates of Kadra dam was opened and there was a massive influx of fresh water into the Bay. Hence it is assumed that this *Anguilla* species which normally breed in sea while elvers migrate upstream into the freshwater areas of the river for their growth phase came to the sea for breeding. The fish was purchased by the local dealers for selling it in the interior markets where good demand exists for it. The fish which was earlier observed in the monsoon fishery nowadays have disappeared and the reason was attributed to the poor monsoon and damming of the river.

Occurrence of grooved razor fish *Centriscus scutatus* Linnaeus, 1758 from Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai

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On regular weekly observation at Chennai Fishing Harbour, during the month of July 2013, occurrence of grooved razor fish, *Centriscus scutatus* (50 kg) locally called as “Razar meen” belonging to Centricidae family of the order Syngnathiformes landed by trawl was recorded. This species is widely distributed in coral reefs and inshore habitats throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific. The species has been first reported in India from the Gulf of Mannar, during 1975 and from Lakshadweep Islands, Kerala and Visakhapatnam during 2012. It inhabits sandy or muddy floors of
shallow inlet waters. Usually they are observed in large schools among branching corals, seahip gardens and black coral bushes to about 15-20 m depth.

**Description:** This species is characterized by a sharp-edged belly and shrimp-like appearance. It has a straight, sleek, razor-like body with three dorsal spines, one long sharp spine displaced at the rear end of the body and two shorter spines, rest of the dorsal fin and the caudal fin present at the ventral side of the fish. The snout is long and narrow, and the small mouth at the end has no teeth. Lateral line is dusky, continuous and has no interruption. Eight silvery crossbars were observed on the ventral plates (Fig.1).

![Fig. 1. Grooved razor fish, *C. scutatus* from Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai](image)

This fish is remarkable for its strange body shape and swimming habits. Unlike other fishes, they swim vertically and in a synchronized manner with snout pointing downwards. Razor fishes are not used as table fish but usually processed for fishmeal production and also live fishes are collected by aquarium hobbyists.

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**On the occurrence of swordtip squid, *Loligo edulis* Hoyle, 1885 in trawl catches off Tamil Nadu**

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A new entrant of squid species, *Loligo edulis* Hoyle, 1885 commonly known as ‘swordtip squid’, was observed in the trawl catches at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, and Karaikal Fishing Harbour, Karaikal, Tamil Nadu on 27.08.2013. The species is distributed along the Western Pacific, Northern Australia, Philippine Islands and northern South China Sea to central Japan. The occurrence of *Loligo edulis* is reported for the first time from the north-east coast of India during July 2013. At Sassoon Docks (new jetty), Mumbai, north-west coast heavy landing of *L. edulis* was observed on 18th February 2011.

**Species Description**

Fins large, rhombic with the anterior margin slightly convex, the posterior margin gently concave, and the lateral angles rounded. Fins become slightly longer than wide in adult specimens (up to 70% of mantle length), the mantle is moderately stout to elongate and mature males may be more slender (Okutani *et al.*, 1987) than female. Arms are moderately long forming about 25-45% of mantle length (Fig.1 & 2). The arm formula is variable: $3.4.2.1$ or $4.3.2.1$. Tentacular clubs are

![Fig. 1. *L. edulis* collected from Kasimedu Landing Centre, and Karaikal Fishing Harbour, Tamil Nadu](image)