

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



Fig. 2. Arm III suckers ring teeth's of *L. edulis*: More than 6-8 long slender square-cut teeth on the distal margin, Proximal margin smooth without teeth's

expanded with 30 to 40 sharp conical teeth. The gladius is long and moderately narrow. Arm III suckers: More than 6-8 long slender square-cut teeth on the distal margin, proximal margin smooth (Fig. 3). The average length and weight of the *L.*



Fig. 3. Landings of *L. edulis* at Karaikal Fishing Harbour, Tamil Nadu

edulis varied from 178 ± 34.84 mm, 86.15 ± 35.56 g respectively (Table.1). There was a heavy landing of swordtip squid and also Indian squid, *L. duvauceli* along the Coromandal coast during July 2013.

Table 1. Morphometric measurement and maturity stages of *Loligo edulis* collected from Kasimedu Landing Centre, and Karaikal Fishing Harbour, Tamil Nadu.

Serial Number	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	Maturity Stages (Male/Female)
1	155	56	F4
2	180	63	M2
3	205	118	M2
4	235	115	M2
5	215	138	F4
6	220	156	M2
7	215	133	M2
8	200	84	M2
9	200	110	M2
10	210	106	M2
11	185	99	F2
12	155	69	F4
13	135	43	F4
14	140	50	M2
15	165	74	F4
16	145	57	F4
17	200	110	M2
18	130	36	F2
19	120	46	F4
20	150	60	F4
Mean \pm SD	178 ± 34.84	86.15 ± 35.56	-

M=Male, F=Female