

## Rare occurrence of cirrate octopod *Opisthoteuthis* sp.



Fig. 1 Dorsal (a) and ventral (b) view of *Opisthoteuthis* sp. from Sakthikulangara fisheries harbour

A single specimen of cirrate octopod *Opisthoteuthis* sp. was collected from Sakthikulangara Fisheries Harbour in Kollam district on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (Fig. 1). It was a by-catch in a bottom trawl operated at a depth of 200m. Three species of *Opisthoteuthis* are currently known to occur in the Indian Ocean. These are *O. phillipi*, *O. extensa* and *O. medusoides*. All

these species have been described from only a few individuals, making detailed comparison among the species in the genus difficult. More detailed morpho-meristic data, detailed description and molecular taxonomy approaches such as DNA barcoding, is required to clarify its identity. Cirrate octopods are considered to resemble the ancestor

of all octopuses, inhabiting deep waters of all oceans of the world (Villanueva *et al.*, 2002). The family Opisthoteuthidae, which includes the cirrate octopod genus *Opisthoteuthis*, is home to the majority of cirrates.

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