NOTES

ON AN INTERESTING SPECIMEN OF *RASTRELLIGER KANAGURTA* (CUVIER) LANDED AT MALWAN, MAHARASHTRA

ABSTRACT

An interesting specimen of *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier) with spots of different sizes distributed along the dorso-lateral region of the body from head to tail, caught in the shore-seine on 12th February 1970 at Dandi, Maharashtra Coast is reported in this short communication.

THE INDIAN MACKEREL *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier) contributes to a fishery of considerable magnitude from October/November to April/May along the Malwan Coast. It is mainly caught in the coastal waters by shore-seines or gill nets.

During routine collection of data on exploited fishery resources, an interesting specimen was encountered in the shore-seine catch landed on 12th February, 1970 at Dandi (Malwan) (Lat. 16°03'N, Long. 73°26'E) landing centre along the Maharashtra Coast.

The specimen was found to differ from the normal mackerel mainly in the distribution pattern of spots in the dorsum. Generally, a row of 16 spots is found along the back near the base of dorsal in *R. kanagurta*, but in the present specimen, spots of different size were seen distributed along the dorso-lateral aspect of the body from head to tail in more than one row (Fig. 1). The characteristic distribution of the spots makes the species easily distinguishable from the other varieties included in the group. A survey of literatures reveals that such distribution pattern of spots has not so far been described.

Important morphometric measurements (in mm) of the specimen are as follows :

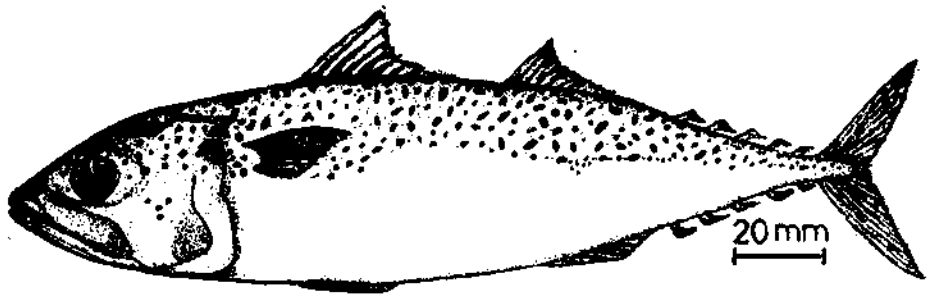

Fig. 1. 'Spotted mackerel' caught at Dandi on 12-2-1970.

Total length 217 ; Fork length 193 ; Head 55 ; 1st predorsal distance 68 ; 2nd predorsal distance 112 ; prepectoral distance 57 ; Pre-pelvic distance 69 ; Pre-anal distance 160 ; Tip of snout to end of maxilla 30 ; Anterior height of first dorsal from origin 28 ; Vertical height of 1st dorsal 22 ; Anterior height of 2nd dorsal 17 ; Vertical height of 3rd dorsal 12 ; Length of pectoral fin 29 ; Length of pelvic fin 23 ; Depth of anal fin from origin 16 ; Vertical depth of anal 14 ; Depth of head at middle

of eye 28 ; Depth of body at origin of first dorsal 47.5 ; Depth of body midway between pelvic and anal origins 48 ; Depth of body at second dorsal origin 45.5 ; Depth of body at anal origin 41.4 ; Distance between origins of pectoral and first dorsal 23 ; Inter orbital distance (between free rims) 17.5 ; Width of body at pectoral origin 27.5 ; Length of longest gill raker 20 and Length of longest gill filament 13.

Counts

D_1 × ; D_2 12 + v finlets ; A 12 + v finlets ; P_1 19 ; P_2 1, 5 ; Gill rakers 20 + 39 ; L tr 11/25 ; 1 at 122.

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