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UNUSUAL LANDING OF OIL SARDINE *SARDINELLA LONGICEPS*
VALENCIENNES, ALONG PARANGIPETTAI (PORTO NOVO),
SOUTHEAST COAST, INDIA

ABSTRACT

Unusually abundant landings of oil sardine *Sardinella longiceps* Valenciennes, hitherto not reported along east coast is observed at Parangipettai coast during June-August 1986 and reported presently.

THE INDIAN oil sardine *Sardinella longiceps* valenciennes which forms 10 to 18 % of the total fish landings in India, usually occurs in shoals along the west coast of India. Only meagre catches of oil sardine have been reported from east coast. To the best of my knowledge no earlier report is published about the abundant occurrence of oil sardine along east coast excepting the recent report of its occurrence from Pondicherry (Anon., 1985) and hence the present report.

While investigating the biology and population identification of Indian mackerel *Rastre-*

lliger kanagurta along east coast, the author has observed unusual catches of oil sardine at Parangipettai coast. It is seen from the landings that though the oil sardine catches were observed from June to August 1986 at Parangipettai the maximum landings were observed during August.

On enquiry, the shoals were caught in the gillnets in depths ranging from 6 to 8 metres. Though the oil sardines were caught mainly by catamarans, kavalai valai and thattakavalai valai with the mesh size ranging from 2.5 to 4 cm were also employed along Parangipettai coast.

The specimens caught measured 158 to 195 mm in total length, however, the fully mature specimens were abundant during July. Females outnumbered the males.

The unusual occurrence of oil sardine in Pondicherry was attributed to the under water drift locally known as 'Vannivellam' flowing towards southwards during north east monsoon, however, the abundant occurrence of oil sardine at Parnagipettai coast was observed during June, July and August and hence

no explanation is offered presently, but further research is initiated to understand this unusual occurrence of oil sardine along the east coast, which is worth monitoring in view of its inherent fluctuation and seasonal migrations.

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NOTE ON THE ABNORMALITIES IN THE EDIBLE PORTUNID CRAB *SCYLLA SERRATA* (FORSKAL)

ABSTRACT

Abnormalities in the edible Portunid crab *Scylla serrata* (Forsk.) is reported for the first time from Porto Novo waters, east coast of India.

SCYLLA SERRATA is an Indo-Pacific edible crab commonly found in all the estuaries and backwaters. 153 specimens were collected on July 7, 1986 from the upper reaches of Vellar Estuary (11° 29' N; 79° 46' E) and two of them showed abnormalities in carapace and cheliped. Even though abnormalities have been reported for *Thalamita integra* (Sankarankutty, 1959), *Lissocarcinus orbicularis* (Sankarankutty and Thomas, 1963), *Neptunus (Neptunus) sanguinolentus* (Noble, 1964) and *Portunus pelagicus* (James, 1966), no information is avail-

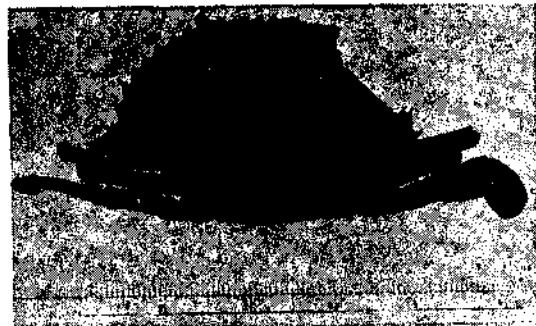


Fig. 1. Abnormal carapace of *Scylla serrata*.