

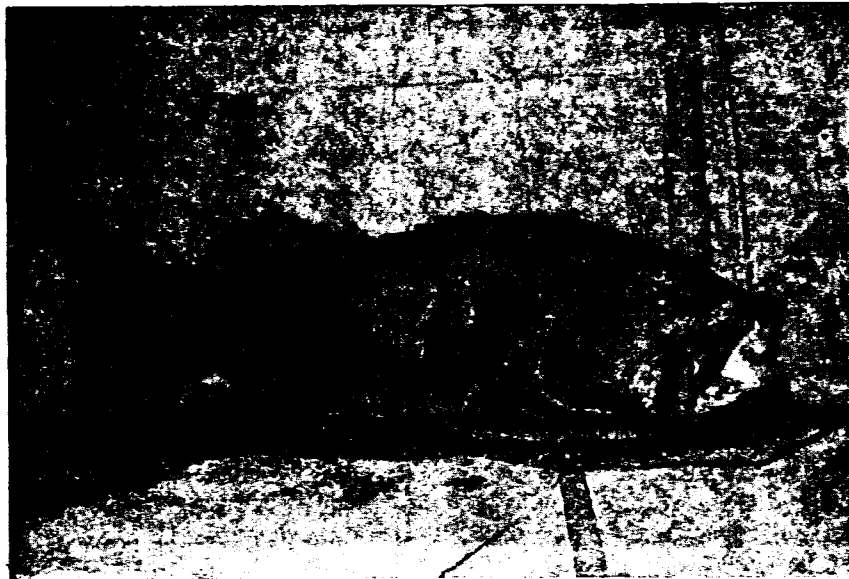
**A NOTE ON THE LANDING OF GIANT GROUPEL, *PROMICROPS*  
*LANCEOLATUS* (BLOCH) AT VERAVAL, SAURASHTRA**

Landings of medium-sized serranids are not uncommon at Veraval. But landings of giant specimens of *Promicrops lanceolatus* (Bloch) are very unusual. On 28th December 1961, one specimen measuring 2220 mm. (Photograph) and again on 24th February 1962, two specimens measuring 2360 mm. and 2240 mm. were landed by hook and line, using rays as bait. The fish (called 'Wekli' locally) were caught off Veraval at 53 metres depth. It was thought worthwhile to record the measurements and other particulars of these fish for purposes of future comparison.

*Description* : D.XI. 14-15 ; A.III.8 ; P.17-18 ; V.I.5 ; B.VII ; lateral line-difficult to read ; cheek scales 29 ; G.R. 8+18.

Head 2.8, height 3.4 in total length. Eye small, 3.6 in interorbital distance. Lower jaw projecting, mouth oblique, maxilla surpassing eye. Preoperculum feebly serrate on hind edge, smooth below. Teeth small, numerous, in bands, none enlarged, about 20 series in upper jaw, 11 in lower jaw, 22 in vomer, 12 in palatines, numerous in pharyngeal. Gill-rakers small, 8 on upper limb, 18 on the lower. Dorsal origin above pectoral origin, dorsal spines low, soft dorsal rounded. Soft anal rounded. Pectoral brown with black spots. Caudal rounded. Scales cycloid.

Lateral line discontinuous and obscure. The tubules of lateral line scales end posteriorly in 4 to 6 ridges. Colour uniform brownish black, pale below.



Photograph. The giant grouper, *Promicrops lanceolatus* (Bloch)

*Morphometric measurements (in mm.) :*

Total length	..	..	..	..	2220	2360
Standard length	..	..	..	..	1860	2060
Head length	..	..	..	..	830	830
Orbital diameter	..	..	..	..	55	55
Interorbital distance	..	..	..	..	190	180
Postorbital distance	..	..	..	..	not recorded	470
Snout	..	..	..	..	"	350
Snout to dorsal origin	..	..	..	..	870	840
Snout to pectoral origin	..	..	..	..	780	770
Snout to pelvic origin	..	..	..	..	860	860
Snout to anal origin	..	..	..	..	1410	1600
Maximum width of maxilla	..	..	..	..	not recorded	90
Height at dorsal origin	..	..	..	..	650	680
Height at caudal peduncle	..	..	..	..	240	240
Girth at dorsal origin	..	..	..	..	1720	1880
Girth at caudal peduncle	..	..	..	..	not recorded	640

*General observations :* It was possible to weigh only the specimen measuring 2360 mm. which weighed 216 kg. Guts and gonads were removed from all the three specimens for examination. For the study of food items, only the intestine could be examined, since the stomach was extroverted. The intestine contained besides digested material, teleostean vertebrae, bones and scales, some cartilages and caudal spines of rays.

## NOTES

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Of the three fish examined for sex, the specimens measuring 2220 mm. and 2240 mm. were males and the one measuring 2360 mm. was a female. The testis was a large, heavily muscular bilobed structure; the two compact lobes joined to form a common structure of their own length. The ovary was a similar bilobed but flabby structure. The ova were minute and transparent without any trace of yolk and they ranged 0.042 mm. to 0.126 mm. in diameter.

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