

ON A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF THE DOGTOOTH TUNA  
*GYMNOSARDA UNICOLOR* RÜPPELL FROM THE CALICUT COAST, INDIA

## ABSTRACT

The Dogtooth tuna *Gymnosarda unicolor* Rüppell is reported for the first time from the main land coast of India having earlier been reported only from Lakshadweep and Andaman waters.

THE TAXONOMY and distribution of tunas and tuna-like fishes in the Indian Ocean are given by Silas and Pillai (1982). From this, it is seen that the Dogtooth tuna *Gymnosarda unicolor* Rüppell is not so far recorded from the coasts of India's mainland and the earlier records are from Lakshadweep and Andaman waters only.

On a routine collection of data from Vellayil, Calicut, a specimen of *G. unicolor* (Pl. I) was obtained in drift gill-net. It had a standard length of 59 cm and weighed 3.25 kg.

*Gymnosarda unicolor* Rüppell

*Gymnosarda unicolor* Rüppell, 1838. *Nyue Wirbet-thiere. Fische des Rothen Meers.*, 148 pp. Gill, 1862. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, 1814: 124-127.

*Thynnus (Pelamis) unicolor* Rüppell, 1836. *Fische des Rothen Meers* 40-41, P. 112 (fig. 1).

*Pelamis nuda* Gunther, 1860. *Cat. Fish. Bri. Mus.*, 11: 548.

*Gymnosarda nuda* Kishinouye, 1923. *J. Coll. Agric. Imp. Univ. Tokyo*, 8 (3): 293-475.

**Description:**  $D_1$  XIV,  $D_2$  13 + 7, P 26, A 10 + 6.

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 Calicut-673 005.

In per cent of standard length, total length 122.0; fork length 107.6; head length 26.6; snout length 9.7; eye diameter 5.1; snout to first dorsal 32.2; snout to second dorsal 59.3; snout to ventral 28.8; snout to lateral 27.1; snout to anal 66.1; length of pectoral 18.0.

Gill-rakers 12, teeth large and conical in both jaws, 17 and 23 on one side of lower and upper jaw respectively. Two patches of teeth on tongue. Maxilla reaches middle of eye. Interpelvic process single. Caudal peduncle slender with well developed median keel. Lateral line prominent and arched over pectoral fin. Body naked.

**Colour:** The original colour had faded as it was landed ashore very late. Back and upper side of body, light blue black. Lower side and belly dirty white. No lines or any markings on body.

**Distribution:** In the Indian Ocean, it has been reported from Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles and from nearby oceanic Islands, Southeast Coast of Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep Sea, Andamans, around Maldives and now from Calicut.

M. SIVADAS  
 K. K. BALASUBRAMANIAN

## REFERENCE

SILAS, E. G. AND P. P. PILLAI 1982. *Bull. Cent. Mar. Fish. Res. Inst.*, 32: 3-23.