

NOTE

On an abnormal sting-ray caught off Parangipettai, east coast of India

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Abstract

An abnormal stingray, *Dasyatis jenkinsii*, measuring 69.5cm in total length was caught by a trawl off Parangipettai. The specimen showed 4 muscular segments on the right side and 5 on the left side.

An abnormal male specimen of *Dasyatis jenkinsii* measuring 69.5cm was caught by a trawl off Parangipettai on 20th July 2003 from a depth of 60m (Fig.1). The pectoral region on either side behind the gill slits showed four muscular appendages on the right side and five on the left side. A similar specimen recorded earlier (Ramaiyan and Sivakumar, 1988), measured 45.3 cm in total length and had 5 and 6 muscular arms on the right and left side respectively.

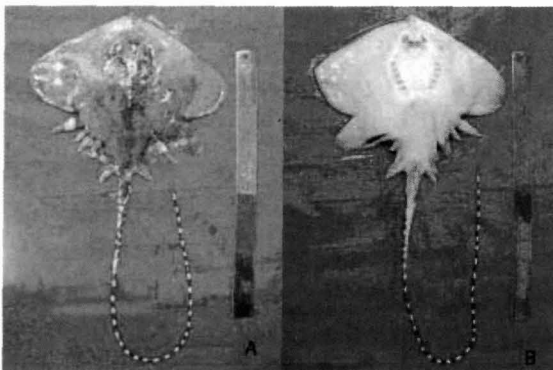


Fig. 1. Abnormal specimen of *D. Jenkinsii*

The meristic and morphometric mea-

Table 1. The variations in the meristic and morphometric characters of *D. jenkinsii*

Parameters (Measurements in cm)	Ramaiyan and Sivakumar, (1988)	Present specimen
No. of arms on the right side	5	4
No. of arms on the left side	6	5
Total length	45.3	69.5
Tail length	25.5	51.2
Length across disc	19.7	23
Disc length	16	19
Distance between snout and orbit	3.7	4.2
Distance between orbits	2.7	3.5
Distance between spiracles	4.3	2
Distance between snout and tip of lower jaw	4.7	5
Distance between snout and cloaca	16.3	17
Distance between nostrils	1.6	2
Distance between I pair gill slits	3.7	4
Distance between V pair gill slits	2.4	3.5
Clasper length	2.7	4

surements are given in Table 1. Reports of abnormal features of ray fishes from Indian seas have been made by Luther (1962), Bennet (1964), Chhapgar (1964), Easwaran (1967), Nair and Chellam (1971) and Ramaiyan and Sivakumar (1988). Ramaiyan and Sivakumar (1988) have stated that during the embryonic development of rays the pectoral fins, which are posterior to the gill slits in early stage, extend both in front and behind the gill slits. They later fuse with the head before birth. In the present specimen lobes of the pectoral fins have failed to fuse with head as reported earlier in some abnormal rays (Bigelow and Schroeder, 1953; Templeman, 1965; Bennet, 1964; Chhapgar, 1964; Nair and Chellam, 1971; Ramaiyan and Sivakumar, 1988).

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