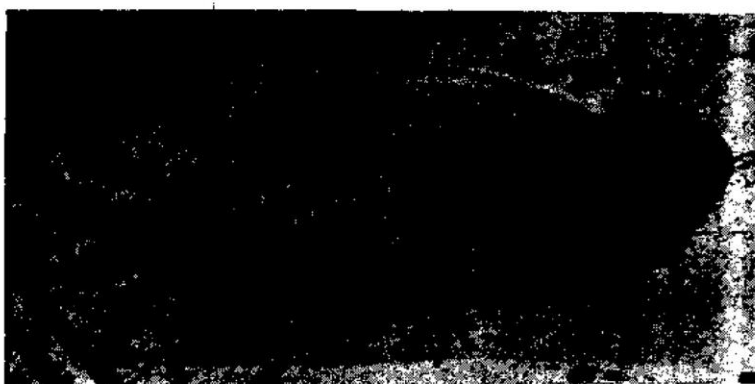


## NOTES

### OCCURRENCE OF A WHALE SHARK AT VERAVAL, GUJARAT STATE\*

Records of the capture of the whale shark *Rhineodon typus* Smith in Indian waters are few and these have been reviewed and made up-to-date by Prater (1941) with a few additions. Since then, Kulkarni (1948), Chacko and Mathew (1954), and Kaikini, Rao and Dhulkhed (1959) have reported the landing of the species, on our coast. But from Gujarat and Saurashtra coasts there has so far been no record of the fish. Therefore it may be of interest to report the capture of one by the vessel 'Saroj' operating under the scheme for demonstration of mechanised fishing in these waters. The fish was caught in Valli, a drift-net, in less than 7 fathoms depth off Veraval. It got entangled in the net at 23-30 hrs. on 2.11.54 and it was with considerable difficulty that it was disentangled and hauled on board the vessel. This seems to be the first record of the species



*Rhineodon typus* Smith Landed at Veraval

from this area. Subsequently one more fish has been reported from Okha by Shri. Shanbhag (personal communication) but its measurements are not available. Detailed measurements of the whale shark are as follows :

Total length ..	..	..	..	..	525 cm.
Distance between the two pectorals			..	..	106 ,,
Length from tip of the snout to the base of the pectoral			..	..	130 ,,
Length of pectoral	..	..	..	..	100 ,,
Length of caudal	..	..	..	..	124 ,,
Height of first Dorsal	..	..	..	..	61 ,,
Height of Second Dorsal		..	..	..	26 ,,
Distance between the eyes		..	..	..	88 ,,
Diameter of the eye	..	..	..	..	3.8 ,,

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The specimen was thus slightly smaller than the one reported by Prater (1941) from Bombay. It was bluish grey on the back and white below. Along the flanks there were three longitudinal ridges almost equidistant from each other. The spots were serially placed in vertical bands alternating with narrow bands of grey colour. On the head the spots were more pronounced and formed a kind of mosaic (Plate I). The specimen was a female with immature ovary. The liver weighed 57.62 kg. The stomach and intestine contained some greenish mucous substance which could not be identified specifically as it was in an advanced stage of digestion. It appeared that plant matter formed the major part of it as also has been noted by McCann (1954) for two specimens.

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#### NEW RECORDS OF THE GIANT TREMATODES OF THE GENUS *HIRUDINELLA* GARCIN FROM INDIAN WATERS

In the course of the examination of the stomach contents of certain Scombroid fishes *Katsuwonus pelamis* (Linnaeus), *Neothunnus macropterus* (Temminck & Schlegel), *Euthynnus affinis affinis* (Cantor) and *Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier & Valenciennes) from Minicoy and Tuticorin, I was able to collect several specimens of the so-called giant trematodes belonging to the genus *Hirudinella* (Digenea-Family Hemiuridae). These have not hitherto been definitely recorded from Indian waters, though Rao (1960) mentions about the parasites resembling *Distomum* sp. from the stomachs of *Acanthocybium solandri* from Vizhingam.

These are large, muscular and cylindrical or globular worms with the body strongly marked with transverse folds. The mouth and oral sucker are subterminal. The acetabulum situated close behind the oral sucker is larger than the latter. The oral sucker opens into the pharynx which is continued as oesophagus from which two lateral diverticula are directed forward. From the oesophagus two intestinal caecae pass backwards, filling the hind end of the body. The genital pore is a median and ventral opening near the oral sucker. The excretory pore is at the posterior tip of the worm. The testes lie behind the acetabulum. The seminal vesicle is

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