

***EUPRYMNA MORSEI* (VERRILL, 1881) (SEPIOLIDAE : CEPHALOPODA)
FROM THE INDIAN COAST**

ABSTRACT

The squid, *Euprymna morsei* (Verrill, 1881) is recorded from the Madras coast (Bay of Bengal) and a description of the species based on six female specimens collected by the authors is embodied in this note.

EUPRYMNA MORSEI (Verrill) is a comparatively rare cephalopod, more commonly known from the tropical and subtropical shallow coastal waters. It has been reported earlier from the coast of Japan, Philippines, Formosa, Hong Kong, Andamans, Gulf of Mannar, Maldive Archipelago and Persian Gulf. Describing the cephalopod collections of the Indian Museum, Goodrich (1896) reported on seven specimens and Massey (1916) on one male from the Andamans. Hoyle (1904) and Winckworth (1926) have recorded one female each from the Pearl Banks of Ceylon. Silas (1968) in his Preliminary Catalogue of the Cephalopoda known from the Indian Ocean, mentions of no definite record of the species as yet from the Indian Ocean. He has, however, placed *Iniotenthis morsei* Goodrich, 1896 (*nec* Verrill, 1881) and *Euprymna morsei* Hoyle, 1904 (*nec* Verrill, 1881) from the Andamans and Ceylon as synonyms under *Euprymna berryi* Sasaki (1929). In fact, there has been no record earlier from the Indian coast proper and hence the present record of six females from the coast of the Bay of Bengal at the city of Madras is of some interest.

Five specimens were collected in 1967 from the Royapuram fish market, Madras, probably having been caught in the fish nets laid about three miles off the Royapuram coast. The sixth specimen was collected in July 1969 from fish-nets emptied on the Triplicane Beach at Madras and here again, the nets are laid about three miles off the coast.

Description : Except for minor details, the general morphology of these specimens agrees with that of the specimens from Japan, described by Hoyle (1886). The body is oblong and rounded behind. Fins are subcircular, forming a notch at their anterior attachment to body. Mantle is attached to the head by a broad ligament extending between the eyes. Siphon is simple, without any expansion at its extremity. Arms are unequal in length, there being no definite order. Umbrella is totally lacking between the two ventral arms and it is unequally extended between the other arms. It is enlarged between the second and third right arms and between the third and fourth left arms. Tentacles are thrice as long as body. Suckers are arranged in four irregular rows. They are pedunculated and have dark brown horny rings. Enlarged suckers occur on the ventral arms and on the third right and left arms. The general surface of the body is smooth and the dark purple dots in the preservative formalin are more prominent on the lower surface of the body and fins.

Measurements (in millimetres) :

	Range	Mean
Total length ..	65-97	85
End of body to mantle ..	24-40	33
End of body to eye ..	31-50	41
Breadth of body ..	23-36	29
Breadth of head ..	20-27	24
Eye to edge of umbrella ..	7-14	11
Length of fin ..	13-21	17
Breadth of fin ..	13-18	16
Breadth across fins ..	39-64	51

Length of arms :

	RIGHT		LEFT	
	Range	Mean	Range	Mean
First ..	30-56	43	28-47	38
Second ..	33-56	43	32-53	42
Third ..	32-48	41	30-49	41
Fourth ..	29-48	37	28-45	38
Length of tentacle ..	79-120	94	72-120	93
Length of club ..	13-22	18	9-21	16

Discussion : Comparing these specimens with those of Hoyle (1886), from Japan which are described in detail and with which they closely agree, the fins in the Japanese specimens are crenate and the siphon is slightly expanded at the extremity and arms are unequal, the order in Japanese specimens being 2=3 and 1=4. Also, the umbrella in the Japanese specimens extends between the arms variably and the suckers on the two ventral arms are in two rows.

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our identification of the species. We wish to thank Mr. A. Jeyaraj and Mr. S. G. Rajasingh for the sixth specimen collected for us.

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