

of the specimens had juvenile fishes in their stomachs contributing 56% to the diet, the remaining being digested material. Another 6.5% stomachs had a mixed diet of prawns and fish, 37% and 53.5% respectively; the remaining 9.5% being digested food. The fish that occurred in the stomachs were *Cynoglossus* sp. (26-39 mm.) and *Coilia dussumieri* (14 mm.). 3% of the stomachs had small portunid crab to the extent of 75% and remaining 25% was digested food. Remaining 19% of the fish had only digested material in their stomachs. Negligible number of copepods and larvae of bivalves, gastropods and decapod crustacea were also found in their stomachs but their occurrence was very rare. 32% of the stomachs had a few sand grains in them.

The contents observed in the stomachs appear to show the flying gurnard to be a bottom feeder. According to Menon and Rao (*loc. cit.*) the fish 'burrows in sand along stones of inlets and bays and is taken in drag-nets.'

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3 spine. Some measurements of the two specimens, converted into thousands of standard length are given below :

	with 3 anal spines	with 2 anal spines
Distance from snout to first anal spine ..	680	678
Distance from vent to first anal spine ..	24	25
Length at base of anal fin ..	148	148
Length of first anal spine ..	47	45
Length of second anal spine ..	83	79
Length of third anal spine ..	95	—

The close similarity of measurements in both the specimens for the distance from snout to first anal spine as well as the distance from vent to first anal spine suggests that it is the third anal spine and not the first one that is missing in the abnormal specimen. It may also be mentioned that in the normal specimen, the third anal spine which is the longest, measures as long as the diameter of the eye whereas in the abnormal specimen the longest anal spine i.e. the second is much shorter than the diameter of the eye.

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