

**ON THE CATCH OF A JUVENILE WHALE SHARK *RHINCODON*  
*TYPUS* SMITH FROM MALABAR COAST**

ON THE 27th February 1963 a juvenile whale shark *Rhincodon typus* Smith was caught in a boat seine 'Paithu vala' operating in 12 fathom water off Cannanore coast. This shark, noted for its timidity and gentleness, did not make any attempt to struggle free from its captors and died soon, probably due to exhaustion or shock. It was towed to Thayyil landing centre where we had occasion to examine it.

TABLE I

Measurements of *Rhincodon typus* Smith in metres

Length from tip of snout to upper caudal lobe	..	4.65
-do- lower -do-	..	4.48
-do- origin of caudal fin	..	4.19
-do- -do- Ist dorsal	..	2.38
-do- -do- IInd dorsal	..	3.15
-do- -do- pectoral	..	1.24
-do- -do- pelvic	..	2.51
-do- -do- anal	..	3.00
Body depth at Ist dorsal	..	0.86
-do- IInd dorsal	..	0.43
-do- caudal peduncle	..	0.20
Length of pectoral fin	..	0.36
-do- pelvic fin	..	0.23
-do- Ist dorsal fin	..	0.48
-do- IInd dorsal fin	..	0.23
Width of the mouth	..	0.52

The estimated weight of the shark was about 14 Quintals.

The flesh was soft and whitish in colour as also observed by Chacko and Mathew (1954). During salt curing the brine formed was approximately equal in volume to that of the flesh cured which is quite unusual. The liver was comparatively small and weighed only 20 kg. It was very poor in oil content.

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#### REFERENCE

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