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1053 Unusual landing of *Alepes djeddaba* (Forsk.) and *Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus) by purse seiners at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

Carangids are pelagic fishes widely distributed in the Indian seas and their importance in fishery is highly significant, as they constitute 7% of annual marine fish landing in India. Carangids include 25 genera and 140 species. They are abundant in shallow water up to 60m depth along both coasts supporting fishery almost round the year. The fishery is constituted mainly by *Megalaspis cordyla*, *Decapterus russelli*, *Alepes djeddaba*, *Selar crumenophthalmus*, *Caranx* spp., *Caragoides* spp., and *Scomberoides* spp. in Maharashtra.



Alepes djeddaba landed at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai

New Ferry Wharf is one of the major landing centres in Greater Mumbai, where trawlers from Maharashtra and Gujarat land their catch. Besides trawlers, dol netters, gill-netters and purse seiners also land their catch here. The purse seine fishery is seasonal and usually commences from the middle of September and continues up to the end of the February. The fishery mainly consist of *Arius* spp, *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, *Parastromateus niger*, *Scomberomorus* spp., *Thunnus* spp., *Sardinella longiceps*, *Lutjanus* spp., *M. cordyla*, and *A. djeddaba*.

On 26/09/2003, three purse seiners landed huge catch of *A. djeddaba* (16710 kg) and *M. cordyla* (8065 kg.). The fishing area was about 50-70 kms south west of Mumbai (Off Janjira Murud and Shrivardhan) at a depth of 22-

35 meters. Besides *A. djeddaba* and *M. cordyla* the catch included juveniles of *Scomberoides lysan* and *P. niger*. At the landing centre *A. djeddaba* was sold for Rs. 18/- per kg. and *M. cordyla* for Rs. 10/- per kg.

Total catch of the purse seines on 26/09/2003 at New Ferry Wharf was estimated at 31,925 kg. *A. djeddaba* constituted 52.34%, followed by *M. cordyla* (25.26%), *E. affinis* (17.3%), *P. niger* (2.04%), *R. kanagurta* (1.57%), *S. lysan* (0.78%) and *Sphyræna* (0.03%) (Table 1). The size of *A. djeddaba* ranged from 110-269 mm.

Table 1. Species composition in purse seines (in Kg) on 26/09/2003 at New Ferry Wharf

Species	Unit-1	Unit-2	Unit-3	Unit-4	Unit-5	Total	%
<i>A. djeddaba</i>	2880	9580	-	4250	-	16710	52.34
<i>M. cordyla</i>	-	1960	2955	2300	850	8065	25.26
<i>S. lysan</i>	25	-	-	225	-	250	0.78
<i>P. niger</i>	650	-	-	-	-	650	2.04
<i>E. affinis</i>	-	-	-	-	5550	5550	17.38
<i>R. kanagurta</i>	-	-	-	-	500	500	1.57
<i>Sphyræna</i>	-	-	-	-	200	200	.63

Size frequency of 217 specimens of *A. djeddaba* in furcal length of 110-269 mm shows three modes at 180-189 mm, 220-229 mm, and 210-219 mm. Size frequency of 71 specimens of *M. cordyla* in furcal length of 210-379 mm and weight 100-520 g shows three modes at 240-249 mm, 250-259 mm and 260-269 mm. The length-weight regression equation obtained for the sample of *A. djeddaba* was as follows :

$W = 0.0000287 L^{2.45}$. Males dominated over females in population distribution with a sex ratio of 54:46

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