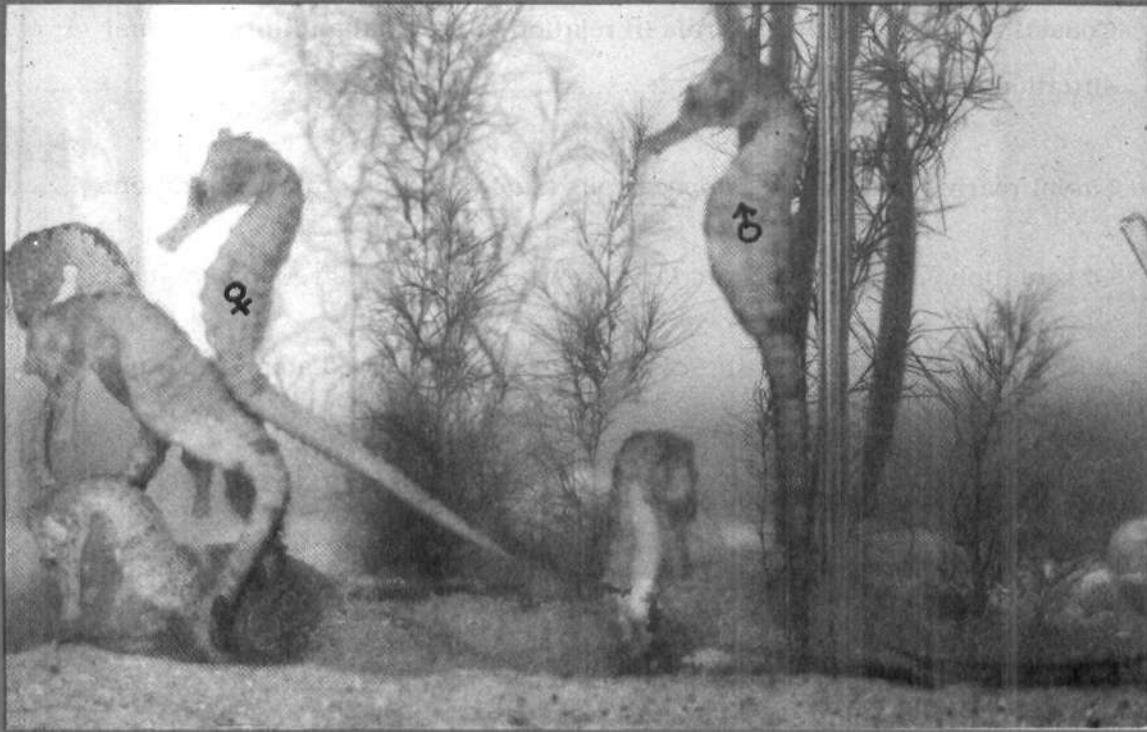




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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्
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918 A note on the Scombroid fish *Scomber japonicus* observed along the Indian Coast

On 24. 2. 1999 a fish specimen closely resembling mackerel was observed along with the landings of mackerel (*Rastrelliger Kanagurta*) by a purse seiner at Tadri fishing harbour. The fish was later identified as *Scomber japonicus*. Popularly called the chub mackerel, it is a species inhabiting the temperate waters of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans and adjacent seas but only rarely observed along the Indian Coasts. The present specimen measured 284 mm in total length and weighed 225 g. Its back was coloured steel blue with numerous wavy lines and dusky rounded blotches on belly. The first dorsal fin had 10 spines while the second dorsal fin had 11 soft rays. It could be distinguished from the mackerel by the presence of a stiff and strong first anal spine, 5 dorsal and 5 anal finlets and a very well developed adipose eyelid. Central keel of caudal peduncle was absent. Other measurements (in mm) were as follows:

Total length: 284 ; fork length : 255; standard length: 240; pre-dorsal length; 91 head length: 74, Pre-orbital length : 59; I dorsal base : 23 ; II dorsal base : 23; anal fin base: 20 and body depth: 70.



Fig. 1. *Scomber japonicus*.

Scomber japonicus a schooling pelagic fish, feed on small clupeoids and pelagic invertebrates.

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