

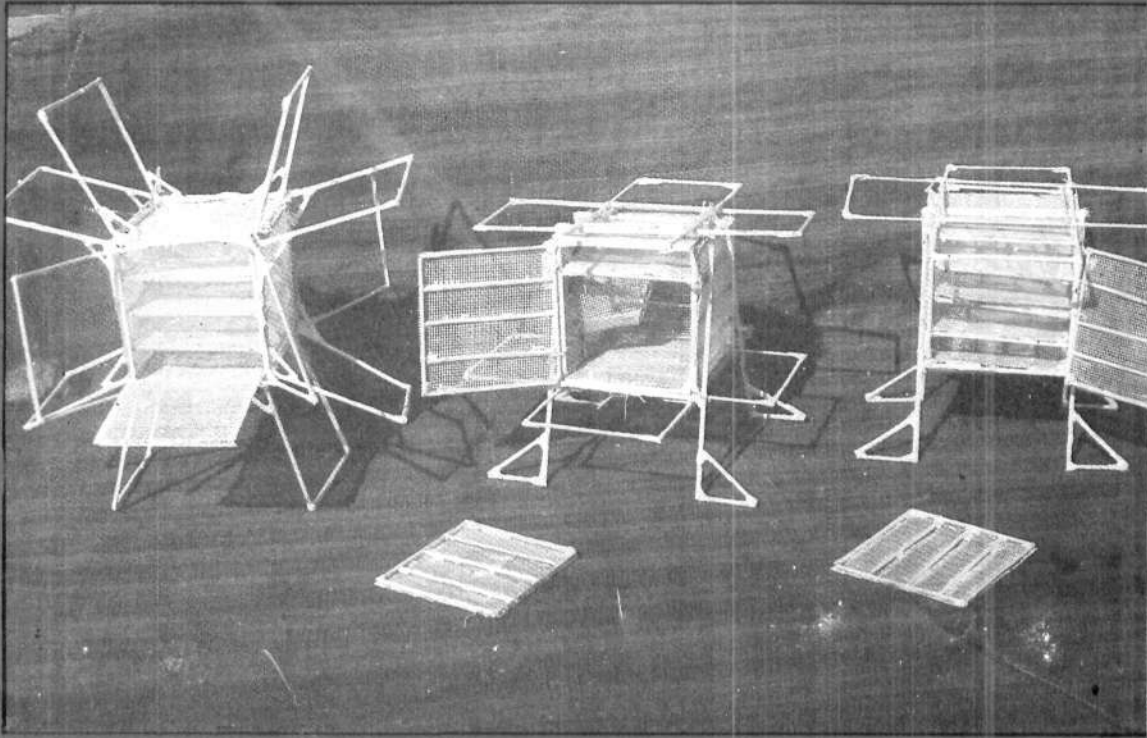


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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

870 On the rare occurrence of *Elagatis bipinnulata* off Kakinada coast

Elagatis bipinnulata commonly called rainbow runners of the family Carangidae is a fish species found usually at or near the surface over reefs or sometimes far offshore in the Indian waters. They are caught occasionally by hooks and line and gill nets. These fishes are reported to attain a maximum length of 120 cm with a weight of 9.5 kg. Biological information on this species along the Indian coast is lacking.

An exclusive catch of 437 specimens of the fish weighing 128 kg caught in a pelagic gill net (*Naravala*) with 6 cm mesh size was landed at the Kakinada Fisheries Harbour on 6.2.1998. The fish, not common along the Andhra coast were caught off Uppada at a depth of 16 m about 12 km away from the Kakinada Fisheries Harbour towards the northeastern side.

All the fishes caught were juveniles characterised with an elongate almost fusiform body (Fig.1). The

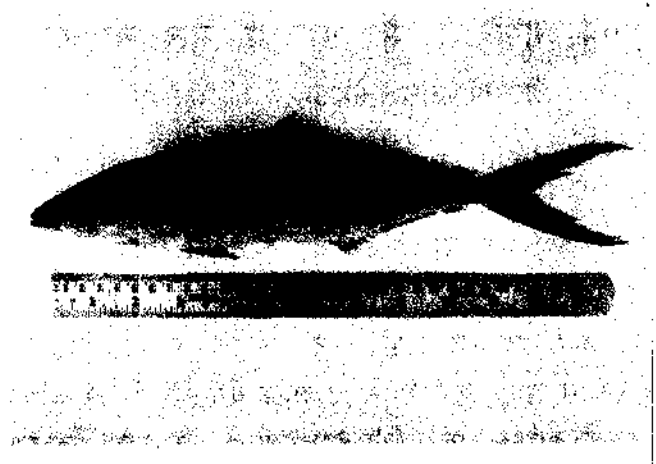


Fig. 1. *Elagatis bipinnulata* landed at Kakinada Fisheries Harbour.

anal fin possessed 2 spines with detached two rayed finlet. Caudal peduncle was devoid of scutes. Colour was dark-olive blue above and white below. Fins were dark with olive or yellowish tint. The length of fishes ranged between 32 and 42 cm with dominant size groups at 35-40 cm. The total catch weighted about 128 kg and

was sold at the rate of Rs. 7.50 per kg.

Reported by N. Burayya and Y.V.S. Suryanarayana, Kakinada Research Centre of CMFRI, Kakinada, India.