

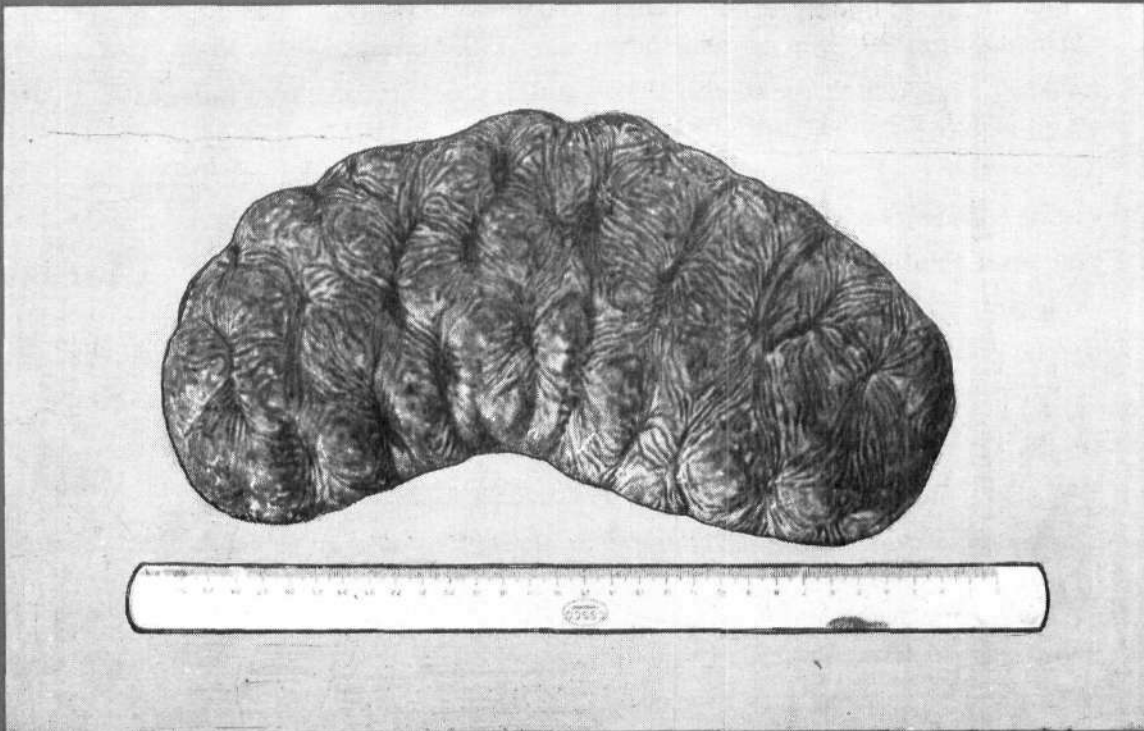


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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

889 On the capture of a live South African cape locust lobster at Vizhinjam

On 5-8-1998, a fish merchant at Vizhinjam landing centre informed the capture of a new lobster hitherto unknown to them. Immediately it was brought to CMFRI Marine Aquarium and kept alive and was identified to be slipper lobster of Scyllarides and the species confirmed as *Scyllarides elisabethae*, the South African locust lobster.

The locust lobster was caught off south west of Vizhinjam at a distance of 40 km from 50 m depth by the trammel net (*Disco valai*). The following are the measurements in mm of the live specimen which is kept alive in the Marine Aquarium at Vizhinjam.

Carapace length	120
Carapace max. width	115
Abdomen length	140
Tail fan length	42
Tail fan width	90
Antenna length	70
Antenna width	50
Antennule length	75
Total length	330
Total weight (g)	740
Sex	female



Fig. 1 Cape locust lobster *Cyallarides elisabethae* caught at Vizhinjam.

The carapace is more or less rectangular or slightly longer than broad and massive. Eyes are placed on the anterior margin of carapace and the antennae are short, broad, plate like and lack flagella. The antennules are short, slender with two short flagellae and violet in colour. The abdominal segments are slightly elevated in the middle portion. The upper surface of carapace is pale brownish and the under surface is yellowish. The first abdominal segment is having three reddish brown spots and the middle spot is the largest.

The distribution of Cape locust lobster is restricted to the southeast coast of Africa from Mozambique to South Africa (about 24°S to 34°50 'S) and occur in depths between 37 and 380 m, on a bottom of fine

sediments, mud, or fine sands. This slipper lobster is reported to dig in the mud, and hence the name "digger lobster" or mud burrowing crustacean. There seems to be no special fishery for the species although it occurs off the coast on Natal in such numbers as to be of economic importance. There is a closed season, in South Africa from 1 July to 31 October for the lobsters and a total ban on capture of soft-shelled specimens and females carrying eggs.

**Reported by : R. Thiagarajan, S. Krishna Pillai,
S. Jasmine and A.P. Lipton, Vizhinjam Research Centre
of CMFRI, Vizhinjam - 695 521, India.**

891 On a large seabass from Karwar coast, India

On 7th June 1998, a Seabass, *Lates calcarifer* measuring 106 cm in length, was landed at Karwar by shore seine of 280 m length and having a mesh size of 16-24 mm. The net was operated in the morning hours at a depth of 4 m and nearly 400-500 m away from the shore. The specimen weighing 76.5 kg was sold for Rs. 900/- The morphometric in cm are given below.

Total length	:	106
Standard length	:	92
Head length	:	37
Snout to first dorsal fin origin	:	38.5
Snout to pectoral origin	:	33
Snout to pelvic origin	:	35.5
Snout to anal origin	:	69
Height at dorsal origin	:	27
Girth at caudal peduncle	:	22

Reported by V.M. Dhareshwar, KRC of CMFRI, Karwar, India.



Fig. 1. The record size sea bass caught from Karwar coast

892 On the recent cyclone lashed across Gujarat coast and its effect on marine fisheries sector

A heavy cyclonic wind crossed the coastal Gujarat on 9-6-'98 resulting in the destruction of life and property besides total disruptions of communication, electricity and water supply systems. The present report summarises the effect of this cyclone on the marine fishery sector of coastal Gujarat.

Districts	No. of landing centres affected	No. of fishing crafts damaged	Loss of fishermen lives	No. of fishermen missing	Total Loss (in crores of rupees)
Junagadh	11	1,300	29	19	800.00
Amreli	2	A few damaged	3	--	--
Jamnagar	14	36	9	19	4.4
Rajkot	4	A few damaged	9	--	0.9

The coastal districts affected mostly were Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar and Rajkot and the details of the loss of the marine fisheries sector in those districts are as follows.

Maximum number of fishing craft lost or damaged was from Porbander Centre which happened to be the worst hit area where the total estimated loss was Rs. 800 crores. It was reported that a Norwegian Steamer anchored off the port was washed ashore due to cyclonic wind from which 23 crew members were rescued. No serious calamities were reported at Veraval Port due to timely warning issued by the port authorities. Loss / damage of fishing gear was not much excepting a few centres of Junagadh district. Fifty fishermen were reported to have lost their lives while 38 missing.

Besides the above losses, roads in most of the landing centres were completely damaged. The fish auction halls and landing jetties at a few centres were also badly destroyed.

Reported by B.V. Makadia, Jamnagar Field Centre of CMFRI, Jamnagar and Y.D. Savavia, J.D. Vanvi, A.A. Ladani, A.P. Bharade, J.P. Polora, R.R. Chudasama, Veraval Research Centre of CMFRI, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 269, India.
