

Anderson (1970) has established that differences in morphometric characters within the species are pronounced which compelled him to segregate samples into two groups viz., those within 50-80 mm SL and 105-165 mm SL. The current specimen is the largest recorded so far (208.6 mm TL). Minor differences in morphometric parameters may be taken as a function of growth.

Anderson (1970) has given the frequency distribution of number of fin rays as follows: D IX spines and 10 soft rays, 03 anal spines and 07 soft rays as the only combination in all specimens examined by him. The current specimen also shows this trait. In the case of gill rakers, maximum

specimens analysed so far had 11 numbers on the upper limb, with 12 being rudiment as common. With regard to lower limb of first gill arch, maximum numbers had 26 gill rakers whereas a minority had 28. Current specimen has 28 gill rakers including rudiment on the lower limb. This specimen has totally 40 gill rakers when counts of upper and lower limb are combined which is the upper limit prescribed for this species. The specimen also has a well developed spine at the angle of pre-opercle which is representative of *S. typus* species over 80 mm SL. The present record confirms the presence of *Symphysanodon typus* Bleeker, 1878 in Indian waters and also the Western Indian Ocean.

## First record of threadfin bream, *Nemipterus zysron* (Bleeker, 1857) from Andhra Pradesh Coast

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Threadfin breams, a major demersal resource of Visakhapatnam region is represented by a single genus *Nemipterus* and is fished extensively by trawlers. Five species of this genus viz., *Nemipterus mesoprion*, *N. japonicus*, *N. delagoae*, *N. luteus* and *N. tolu* generally contribute to the fishery of the region. A sixth species, *Nemipterus zysron* was collected and identified from the catch at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008. *N. zysron* is being recorded in the catch for the first time along Andhra Pradesh coast and was observed as a stray catch along with other commonly occurring threadfin breams. The species popularly known as slender threadfin bream had been misidentified and known with the following synonyms - *Synagris metopias* Gunther, 1859; *Dentex metopias* Bleeker, 1857; *Dentex zysron* Bleeker, 1857; *Heterognathodon petersi* Steindacher, 1866; *Nemipterus metopias* (Bleeker, 1857); *Nemipterus nemurus* (Bleeker, 1857) and *Nemipterus petersi* (Steindachner, 1866). However, none of these names are valid now (Fishbase). *N. zysron* was easily identified in the field by the slightly elongate body as compared to other *Nemipterus* species and the presence of yellow stripes in front of eye through nostrils and from



Fig. 1. *Nemipterus zysron*

upper lip to beneath the eye (Fig. 1). Other diagnostic features observed were the presence of a single dorsal fin with ten spines and ten rays, anal fin with three spines and seven rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin produced into a long yellow trailing filament. Body colour is reddish in the upper part, silvery below; sides below lateral line with distinct yellow stripes along the middle of each scale row. Head pinkish suffused with mauve on the snout. Dorsal fins pale yellow with a bright yellow margin. Pelvic fins hyaline with a yellow axillary area and axillary scale. Caudal fin pinkish, upper and lower

lobes pale yellowish, filament yellow (Fig. 2). Though the species is reported (FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 125, Vol. 12) to have a widespread distribution in the Indo-Pacific from north-western Australia, the Indo-Malay Archipelago and Andaman Sea, it is being reported for the first time along Andhra Pradesh coast. The total length of specimens collected ranged from 18.0 cm to 21.5 cm and is known to attain a maximum length of 25 cm (Fishbase). The collected specimens have been preserved in formalin and kept in the Marine Museum of the Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

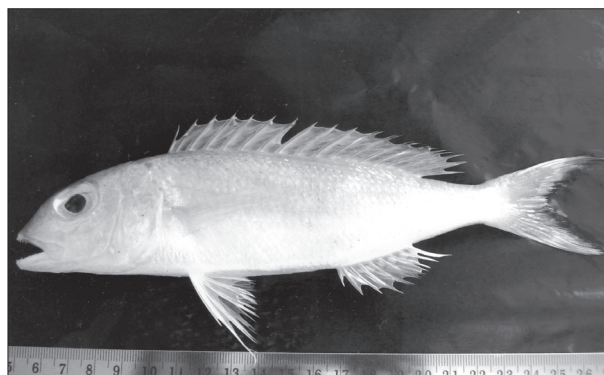


Fig. 2. *Nemipterus zysron* collected from Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

## Record of cuttlefish, *Sepia elliptica* Hoyle, 1885 off Maharashtra coast

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Cephalopods have a good export demand and is the second most sought after commodity next to prawns by trawl operators. With the increased exploitation and expansion of fishing grounds, new records of cephalopods are being reported from various places all along the Indian coast.

A new entrant in to the cuttlefish fishery at New Ferry Wharf, Mumbai, Maharashtra is *Sepia elliptica* Hoyle, 1885 (Fig. 1). The species constituted the fishery during December-February with peak landings in January. This species is commonly known as 'oval bone cuttlefish' and locally all cuttlefishes are called as 'goti'. The mantle length of the species landed at New Ferry Wharf ranged from 87 mm to 118 mm with corresponding weight ranging from 82.6 to 182.4 g. The depth of operation was about 30-40 m at 70-80 km north off Mumbai coast. The occurrence of *S. elliptica* is reported for the first time from Maharashtra waters.

Some of the important distinguishing characters of *S. elliptica* are as follows: The mantle is oval with the dorsal anterior margin triangular. The arm length is sub-equal and the arm suckers are tetra serial. Club sucker-bearing surface flattened, with 10-12 minute suckers in transverse rows. Swimming



Fig. 1. *Sepia elliptica* Hoyle, 1885

keel of the club extends well proximal to carpis. The cuttlebone is oval and angular 'V-shaped' anteriorly, bluntly rounded posteriorly and the dorsal surface is greyish white (Fig. 2 and 3).

*S. elliptica* is often misidentified as *Sepia esculenta*, world over. In *S. esculenta*, the inner cone ledge is thick and directed anterior ventrally and it also has prominent lateral stripes on the dorsal surface and they are commonly called as 'golden cuttlefish' due to its distinct colouration. They seem to get confused with *Sepia aculeata* and because of