

instance of albinism in *T. tenuispinis*, detailed morphometric measurements and meristic counts of the fish were taken and compared with those of a normal individual of a comparable size (Table I).

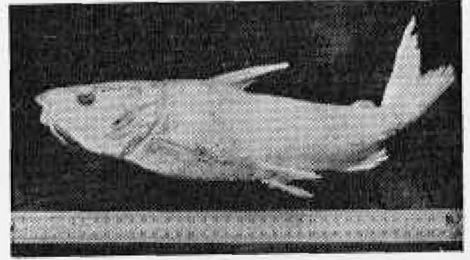


Fig. 1. Albino of the marine cat fish, *Tachysurus tenuispinis*

ON AN ALBINO OF THE MARINE CAT FISH, *TACHYSURUS TENUISPINIS* (DAY).—A specimen of the marine cat fish, *Tachysurus tenuispinis* exhibiting complete albinism caught in a trawl net operated at night at a depth of about 25 m was collected at the Malpe fish landing centre on 10-2-1977 (Fig. 1). The catch was mainly composed of *T. tenuispinis*, *Nemipterus japonicus*, *Saurida* sp. and *Platycephalus* spp. Though several instances of albinism in cat-fishes, total or partial, have been reported by earlier authors as quoted by Rajapandian & Sundaram (1968), since this is the first

Body proportions show that the length of the head was 33.0, 33.3; depth of the body 23.5, 22.3; in per cent of standard length and diameter of eye 15.0, 15.0 in per cent of head length in the albino and the normal fish respectively. The measurements and the body proportions indicate that there are no differences between the albino and normal fish. In fresh condition, the entire body of the albino was silvery-white, the fins white and the eyes reddish brown in colour whereas in the normal fish entire body and fins are grey except the mid-ventral portion of the body which is white. The albino was in spent condition.

VIJAYKUMAR M. BARAGI, R. B. YARAGAL  
AND P. S. B. R. JAMES

*University of Agricultural Sciences,  
College of Fisheries, Mangalore-575 002*

#### LITERATURE CITED

- RAJAPANDIAN, M. E. AND K. S. SUNDARAM. 1967. A case of complete albinism in the marine cat-fish *Tachysurus dussumieri* (Cuvier and Valenciennes). *J. Mar. biol. Ass. India*, 9(1): 194.