

economically important food fishes of Indian coastal waters are represented here. Seasonal occurrence of *Nemipterus japonicus* in Porto-Novo waters are in abundance from October to February. In the remaining months they make sporadic appearance contributing little value to the commercial catch. The fish appears in shoals during August and September in Indian coasts¹. Detailed investigations regarding the biometry and biology of this species in Indian waters are very limited.²⁻⁴

One hundred and eight fishes—both males and females (ratio 1 : 1) were collected and measured separately, from the commercial catches of Pudupettai landing centre, 3 Kms. from Porto-Novo (Near Pondicherry, S. India).

The following parameters : (1) Total length, (2) Fork length, (3) Head length, (4) Body length, (5) Snout length, (6) Snout to Dorsal fin, (7) Dorsal fin length, (8) Snout to Pectoral fin, (9) Snout to Pelvic fin, (10) Snout to Anal fin, (11) Length of upper caudal fin ray, (12) Width of the body, (13) Depth of the body and (14) Diameter of the eye were measured in relation to standard length separately in both the males and females. Standard length of the fish was used as a basic prerequisite against which regression curves for other parameters were drawn.

Out of fourteen parameters measured separately for both the males and females of *Nemipterus japonicus* in the present study, the length or prolongation of the upper caudal fin ray showed a remarkable distinct character. In males the upper caudal fin ray was more elongated (approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times based on 108 males and females) in males than females.

Representative regression curves showed the tangent value for males 0.088 and females 0.035 indicating a faint semblance of external secondary sexual characters present in *Nemipterus japonicus* akin to the animals of higher order. Further this external secondary sexual characters were well developed and could be well seen in matured specimens of *Nemipterus japonicus*.

**A short note of the Biometry of
Nemipterus japonicus (Bloch) in
Relation to Sex in Porto-Novo
waters*.**

The secondary sexual characters are present mostly in the animals of higher order, exceptionally this can be traceable to *Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch), a bony fish belonging to Nemipteridae family of order Perciformes.

Porto-Novo (C° 11 29°N, 79° 49°E) has a fairly rich fauna of fish and almost all the

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The other parameters did not show much significant differences in males and females of *Nemipterus japonicus* in the present study. All these parameters have been statistically worked out and found to be significant.

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- ³ B. Krishnamurthy, 1968. An assessment of *Nemipterus* fishery off Andhra-Orissa Coasts based on exploratory Trawl fishing. (Symposium on the Living Resources of the Seas around India, held at Eranakulam. S. India.
- ⁴ R. Alfred Selvakumar, Notes on the Biometric features of *Nemipterus japonicus* (Bloch) *Bom. nat. Hist. Soc.*, 68 (No. 1); 467-472, 1971.