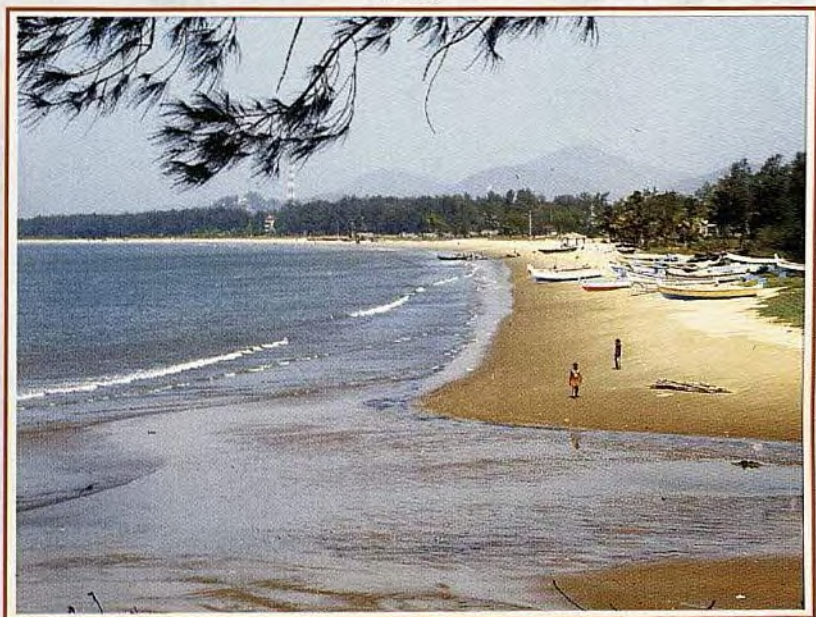




C.M.F.R.I., KARWAR
CARANGID FISHES OF UTTARA KANNADA,
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1. *Alectis indicus* (Ruppel, 1828)

Indian threadfish - *Gali Kokkare* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Juvenile

Diagnostic characters : Profile of head and nape angular. Anal fins extremely long and filamentous in juveniles. Soft dorsal and anal fins almost equal and the anterior rays prolonged into long filaments. Pectoral fins falcate, longer than head; pelvic fins elongate in young. Body is superficially naked; gillrakers (excluding rudiments) on lower limb of first arch 21 to 26. Vertebrae 10 + 14. Rhomboid structure of young disappears when maturing to adult.

2. *Alectis ciliaris*

African pompano - *Gali Kokkare* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Juvenile

Diagnostic characters : Body silvery with light metallic bluish tinge dorsally; a small diffuse dark spot on opercle; superficially naked, with minute and embedded scales. Profile of nape and head broadly rounded, gillrakers (excluding rudiments) on lower limb of first arch 12 to 17. Weakly developed scutes. Only fish in the family that

does not have dorsal fin spines throughout life. Juveniles with long trailing filaments. Dorsal spines (total): 7 - 8; Dorsal soft rays (total): 18 - 22; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 15 - 20. Pelagic in neritic and oceanic waters, sometimes near the bottom. Small juveniles may be found near the shore; adults near bottom to depths of 60 m. Feed on sedentary or slow moving crustaceans. Preferred food fish; marketed fresh, dried or salted.

3. *Alepes djedaba* (Forsskal, 1775)

Shrimp scad - *Lalimbe Kokkare* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic characters : Greyish green above, silvery to white below; distinct black blotch on upper margin of opercle, bordered above by a smaller white spot; caudal fin yellowish, upper lobe dusky to black distally. Ultimate ray of dorsal and anal fins about 1.3 to 1.5 times the

length of penultimate ray. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 22 - 25; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 18 - 20. Gillrakers on first gill arch: upper 10 to 14, lower 27 to 33, total 38 to 47; lateral line with 31 to 36 scales and 39 to 51 scutes (total 77 to 85); Subtropical, amphidromous, marine. Forms schools in inshore waters. Feeds on shrimps, copepods, crustacean larvae and small fish.

4. *Alepes kleinii*

Razorbelly scad - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic characters : Found inshore and in coastal waters. Feed mainly on planktonic crustaceans and larval fishes. Marketed fresh and dried salted.

5. *Atropus atropus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

Cleftbelly trevally - Status: Seasonal in Karwar



Diagnostic characters : Easily recognized by its long dark pelvic fin which fits into a groove along the midline of the belly when depressed. Scutes are present along its straight lateral line. Adult males have prolonged middle rays in the soft dorsal and anal fins. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 21 - 22; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft

rays: 17 - 18. This species attains 25 cm in length. Tropical species with minor commercial fishery, pelagic; amphidromous; marine. Common in shallow coastal waters where it often swims near the surface. Feeds mainly on shrimps, copepods, decapod crustaceans and small fish.

6. *Carangoides praeustus* (Bennett, 1830)



Brownback trevally - Status: Common in Karwar

Diagnostic Characters : Second dorsal fin with a conspicuous black blotch anteriorly. Long pectoral; dorsal and anal fins - no finlets. Rear part of lateral line has large spiny

scales. Naked area of breast separated from naked base of pectoral fin by a broad band of scales. Dorsal I nos : 7; Dorsal II nos: 25. Soft anal-fin rays: 18 to 20; total gillrakers on first arch 32 to 36. In both jaws - a band of teeth; vomerine tooth patch anchor-shaped, with a long posteromedian extension. Found in coastal waters, demersal habitats, oceanodromous. Of low commercial value.

7. *Carangoides chrysophrys* (Cuvier, 1833)



Longnose trevally - Status: Common in Karwar

Diagnostic characters : Color silvery, greenish above. Dorsal profile of snout gently sloped, then abruptly vertical just above mouth cleft. Scaleless breast to behind pelvic origin and laterally to pectoral base. Soft dorsal lobe falcate in young, becoming shorter than head in

adults. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 18 - 20; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 14 - 17. Opercle with black spot. 20-37 weak scutes. Pectoral fins falcate. Inhabits open waters. Juveniles occur in inshore areas, including estuaries. Usually in small groups. Tropical brackish and marine waters; depth range 30 - 60 m, common food fish.

8. *Caranx ignobilis* (Forsskal, 1775)

Giant trevally - *Pingyan Kokkare* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic characters : Head and body dusky golden dorsally, silver ventrally; fins usually pigmented grey to black. Total gillrakers (including rudiments) on first arch 20 to 24; Opercular spot absent. 26-38 strong scutes. Breast without scales ventrally; frequently with a small patch of prepelvic scales. Pectoral fins

falcate; anal fin with 2 detached spines. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 17 - 22; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 15 - 17. Found both in tropical brackish and marine areas, depth range 10 - 100 m from 35°N - 37°S. Adults occur singly and inhabit clear waters. Juveniles found in estuaries. Nocturnal feeder; feed on crustaceans and fishes at night. Spawn on shallow seaward reefs and offshore banks. Sold mostly fresh and dried salted.

9. *Caranx heberi* (Bennett, 1830)

Blacktip trevally - Status: Sporadically occurs in Karwar



Diagnostic characters: Dark bronze to yellow-green above, silvery bronze to yellowish below. Prominent characteristic is black-tipped caudal fin. Dorsal spines (total): 9 - 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 19 - 21; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 15 - 17. Lateral line has 30-40 scutes.

Inhabits clear coastal waters, over rocky reefs. Seldom found in turbid or estuarine waters. Adults in small aggregations. Feeds on fishes and crustaceans. Sold fresh or dried and salted. Catch is usual exported.

10. *Decapterus russelli* (Rüppell, 1830)

Indian scad - *Tonke* (Kannada) - Status: Among the most common carangid species in Karwar



Diagnostic Characters : color bluish green above, silvery below; caudal fin hyaline to yellowish; dorsal fins hyaline basally, light dusky distally, caudal fin hyaline to

dusky. eye usually small. Opercle with small, black spot, opercular membrane with smooth margin. Soft anal-fin rays (including finlet) 25 to 29 (rarely 25). Lateral line curved below soft dorsal and with 30-44 strong scutes; gill rakers on lower limb of gill arch usually 32 to 39. Snout longer than eye diameter; squarish lower posterior edge of maxilla; upper jaw with small teeth anteriorly; soft dorsal and anal fins relatively low, not falcate; pectoral fin sub falcate. fisheries: highly commercial; Benthopelagic: tropical marine; depth range 40 - 275 m. Dwells from middle to benthic areas, forming large schools in deep water, but occasionally inshore in sheltered bays in small to large groups. The most common Decapterus in coastal waters and on open banks of the Indian Ocean. Feeds mainly on smaller planktonic invertebrates. Generally marketed fresh, may be dried or salted, frozen and canned.

11. *Decapterus macrosoma* Bleeker, 1851



Shortfin scad - Status: Rare in Karwar

Diagnostic Characters: Body slender, elongate, and somewhat circular in cross section; posterior end of upper

jaw concave dorsally and with a rounded protrusion ventrally; edge of shoulder girdle (cleithrum) with two small papillae, the lower one larger; dorsal and anal fin each followed by a separate finlet. Color metallic blue dorsally, silvery ventrally; fins hyaline; opercle with a small black spot. 24-40 scutes. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 33 - 38; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 27 - 30. Very slender compared to other carangid species. Forms large pelagic schools. Feeds mainly on zooplankton and small invertebrates; tropical species recorded from 32°N to 20°S, in depth range 20 - 214 m. Commercial species marketed fresh, dried and salted.

12. *Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Torpedo scad - *Gondiu; Gondlu; Gadedare Kokkare* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar

Diagnostic Characters : Color bluish grey to green dorsally; silvery below;

dark fins. Opercle with a large black spot. 51-59 strong, very large scutes. Dorsal spines (total): 9; Dorsal soft rays (total): 18 - 20; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 16 - 17. Anal fin with 2 detached spines. Numerous dorsal and anal finlets are distinct. Pectoral fins long and falcate. Primarily oceanic, lives near the surface of coastal waters. Forms schools and feeds mainly on small fishes. Of good commercial value. Found in tropical brackish and marine waters at depth range 20 - 100 m. One of the commonest carangids in fishery.

13. *Parastromateus niger* (Bloch, 1795)

Black pomfret - *Thondrotte* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic characters: Deep-bodied and strongly compressed fishes. Color is brown above, silvery-white below. The anterior parts of the dorsal and anal fins bluish-gray. The other fins yellowish. Lateral line ends in weakly-developed scutes on the caudal peduncle. Pelvic fins lost in individuals over 9 cm. Dorsal spines (total): 2 - 6; Dorsal soft rays (total): 41 - 46; Anal spines: 2; Anal soft rays: 35 -

40; Vertebrae: 24. Predominant in coastal areas with muddy substrate, also recorded from estuaries. Found near the bottom during daytime and near the water surface at night, at a depth range from 15 - 105 m. Normally forms large schools. Swims on its side near the surface. Feeds on zooplankton. Highly priced commercial food fish, usually marketed fresh.

14. *Scomberoides commersonianus* Lacepède, 1801

Talang queenfish - *Halage Meenu; Daina; Chikate* (Kannada) - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic Characters : Upper jaw extending well beyond eye. Midbody scales oval-shaped. Soft dorsal and anal fins with semi-detached finlets. Scales small and lanceolate, partly embedded. Color dusky green dorsally, silvery below; dorsal lobe dusky to dark

and evenly pigmented. Fish of commercial value; amphidromous ; tropical brackish water and marine habitats. Occasionally found in estuaries. Usually in small groups. Feeds on fishes, cephalopods, and other pelagic prey.

15. *Scomberoides tala* (Cuvier, 1832)

Barred queenfish - Status: Least common of *Scomberoides* spp. in Karwar



Diagnostic Characters : Very similar to *S. commersonianus* but longer body. Spots on sides elongate vertically, forming short bars in adults. Inhabits inshore brackish and marine waters. Occurs at a temperature range of 26.0-29.0 °C. Adults feed mainly on

fish. Usually seen swimming solitary in surface waters at depth range 10 - 13 m, distribution tropical: 40°N - 40°S

16. *Scomberoides tol* (Cuvier, 1832)

Barred queenfish - Status: Common in Karwar Chikate (Kannada)



Diagnostic Characters: Silver in color, with dark coloration on the dorsal and caudal fins and a single row of dark spots on and above the lateral line (5-7 oval or vertically oblong black blotches,

the first 4-5 intersect the lateral line). Dorsal spines (total): 7 - 8; Dorsal soft rays (total): 19 - 21; Anal spines: 3; Anal soft rays: 18 - 20. Found near the surface in coastal waters in small schools. Feeds on small fishes. Dorsal and anal fins may carry toxins. Marketed fresh, also dried or salted. Tropical fish, found in brackish and marine waters from 20-50 m depth.

17. *Scomberoides lysan* (Forsskål, 1775)



Doublespotted queenfish

Diagnostic Characters: Primarily silver in color, with dark coloration on the dorsal and caudal fins and a row of dark spots on either side of the lateral

line. This fish is known to reach up to 110 cm total length. Scutes absent, has several semi-detached finlets at the end of dorsal and anal fins, and is covered with tiny needle-like scales imbedded in a tough skin. Ranges widely throughout the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Found in relatively clear waters from the surface to about 100m. Juveniles inhabit shallow water near the shore, including brackish areas. Adults are solitary. Juveniles feed on the scales of schooling fishes. Like most jacks, adults prey on fish and crustaceans. Tropical gamefish.

18. *Selar crumenophthalmus* (Bloch, 1793)

Bigeye scad - Status: Common in Karwar



Diagnostic Characters: Body elongate and somewhat compressed; adipose eyelid very well developed, almost covering the entire eye; edge of shoulder girdle (cleithrum) with a ventral furrow, a large papilla located immediately

about the furrow and another smaller one near the dorsal edge; Color metallic blue to bluish green dorsally, shading to white ventrally; the lateral yellow stripe sometimes present.