

Unusual landing of the giant form of Purpleback flying squid



Dorsal view of giant form of *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* (scale=20 cm)

The oceanic purpleback flying squid *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* (Lesson, 1830) is a promising oceanic fishery resource in the Arabian Sea. Three different morphotypes including a typical medium form with dorsal photophore, dwarf form without dorsal photophore and giant forms occur of which the giant form has been reported only from the Northeastern Arabian Sea. Fifteen specimens of the giant

form *S. oualaniensis* was landed in the Cochin Fisheries Harbour on 11 May 2023 by mechanized gill netters targeting large pelagic fishes. Their size measured as dorsal mantle length (DML) ranged from 350 to 462 mm and their weight ranged from 1225 to 3258 g. All these squids were mature females, with 13 squids having attached spermatangia on the buccal membrane indicating that mating has occurred.

According to the fishermen, this species is found in the Northeastern Arabian Sea but due to lack of domestic market demand, they are mostly discarded. Further studies on its reproductive biology, age, growth characteristics and identification of internal parasites are being carried out.

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