

ON AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF RAINBOW SARDINE *DUSSUMIERIA HASSELTII* WITHOUT VENTRAL FINS

ABSTRACT

An abnormal specimen of rainbow sardine *Dussumieria hasselti* without ventral fins is recorded here.

SEVERAL instances of abnormalities in fishes have been recorded and the more common anomalies generally met with are in colouration, monstrosity, hermaphroditism, vertebral variation, etc. Several instances affecting both the paired and unpaired fins are also known (Dawson 1964).

The absence of paired fins, either totally or partially, has also been reported from India and Hora (1921) observed the absence of pelvic and pectoral fins in a few fresh water fishes belonging to different families. Kaushik (1960) has reported the absence of pelvic fins in *Cirrhina mrigala* (Ham). This communication records

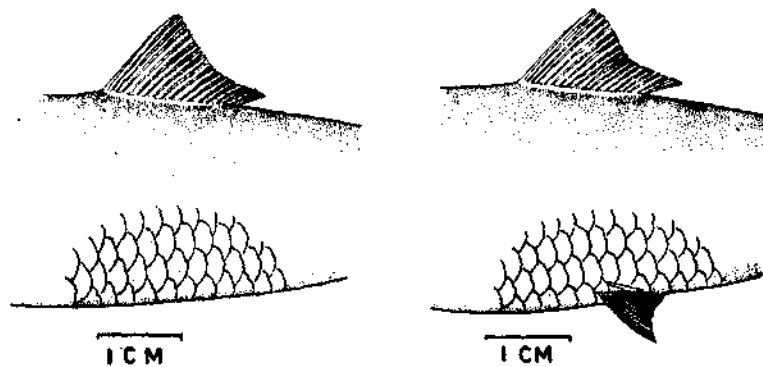


Fig. 1. *Dussumieria hasselti*: a. without pelvic fin and b. normal specimen with pelvic fin.

the total absence of pelvic fins in an adult female specimen of Rainbow sardine, collected from Gulf of Mannar off Kundukal point, Rameswaram Island, on 15th May 1969 during the investigation of the various aspects of the biology of this sardine, *Dussumieria hasselti*.

It was caught in a shore-seine along with a good catch of Rainbow sardines and *Sardinella* spp. The shoal of Rainbow sardines caught in the particular net consisted of specimens of size group ranging from 122 mm to 155 mm. The abnormal specimen measured 131 mm in total length and weighed 19.5 gm. The fish is normal in all other respects. The pelvic fin region does not show any external thickening and is covered uniformly with normal scales (Fig. 1). The specimen showed stage IV of maturity. The growth of the fish and the body proportions are not at all affected by the absence of these pelvic fins. Infact it is only after careful examination that the abnormal condition was detected.

Different workers have attributed various reasons to explain such abnormalities. In the fish under reference, since the place of origin of pelvic fins is covered with normal scales (Fig. 1) and without any external marks of injury, it has to be assumed that the abnormality is not the result of any physical injury.

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