

SHORT COMMUNICATION

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RECORD OF A LIVE SPECIMEN OF SUNSET SHELL, *SILIQUA RADIATA* (LINNAEUS) FROM THIRUCHENDUR, GULF OF MANNAR, INDIA

Recently, the authors who were on a faunistic survey tour to South India, had the opportunity to make a survey of the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mannar. During this period they came across a live specimen of the sunset shell, *Siliqua radiata* (Linnaeus) on Thiruchendur sea coast on 25-i-1978. The specimen was collected while it was burrowing into the sand when it had just been exposed by a receding wave at the lowest phase of the low-tide. The bivalve appears to be a dweller of the tidal flat in this area.

The specimen which is not of a large size is in an excellent condition. It responded well to a treatment of Menthol for narcotisation. In the preserved state now, it has both the valves wide open, the foot and the siphons in well extended condition (Pl. V).

This probably is the first live specimen of this species to be recorded.

Zoological Survey of India,
Calcutta.

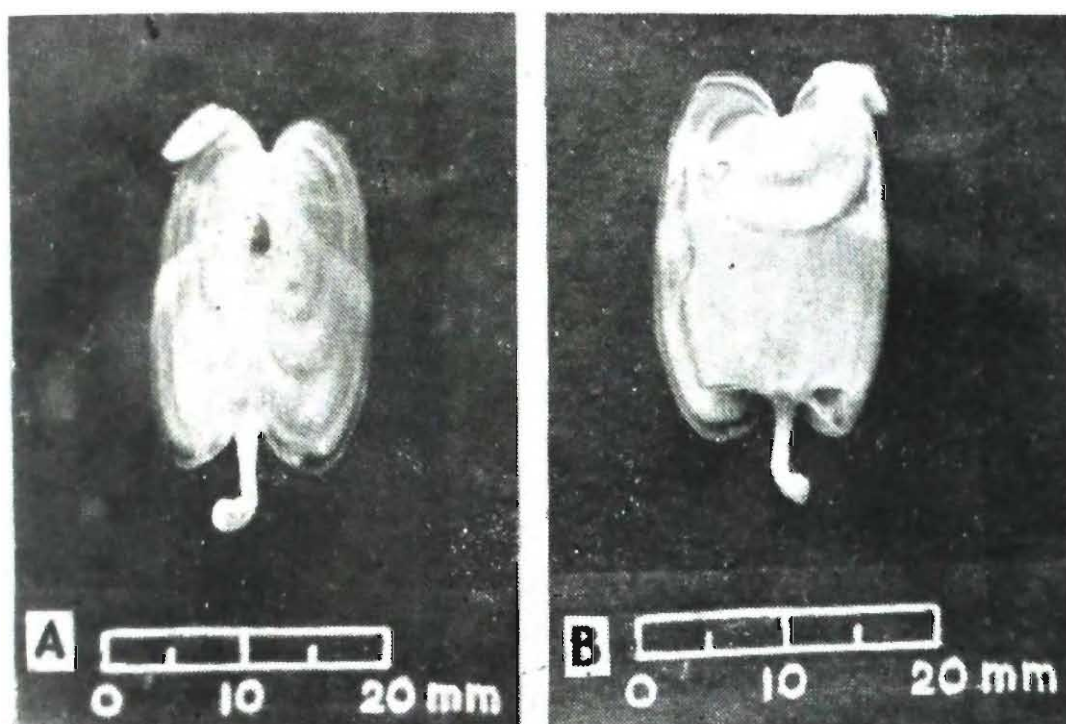
Ghosh (1920) who has made an excellent study of the soft parts of many genera and species of members of the family Solenidae, did not work out the anatomy of this species probably because suitable material of the animal was not available to him.

This communication is intended to stimulate further efforts among collectors for collecting more live specimens of the species so as to facilitate studies on the soft parts, because scarcely any information seems to be available in literature about this animal. The authors offer their sincere thanks to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for the facilities and encouragement.

REFERENCES

GHOSH, E. 1920. Taxonomic studies on the soft parts of the Solenidae. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 19 (2) : 47-78, 2 pls.

A. S. RAJAGOPAL,
H. P. MOOKHERJEE AND S. C. MITRA



Siliqua radiata (L.). A—Dorsal view, B—Ventral view