NOTES ON THE FISHES FROM ANDAMAN SEA COLLECTED DURING FORV SAGAR SAMPADA VOYAGE NO. 113

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INTRODUCTION

At the early hours of 21 January, 1993 the Danish ship VLCC Maersk Navigator, carrying about 300,000 tons of light crude oil from Oman to Japan collided with the Singapore registered empty oil-tanker Sanko Honour while negotiating a narrow passage through the small Indonesian islands at the entry point to the Strait of Malacca. As a result, one of its tanks ruptured and an estimated 18,000 tons of oil spilled on the sea over several days. The oil patches were just 16 nautical miles south of Indira Point, The Great Nicobar right within the EEZ of India. In order to assess the long-term impact of the oil-spill a cruise of FORV Sagar Sampada (Cruise No. 113) was organised during 21.09.1993 to 10.10.1993 in the Andaman Sea (Map : 1). Fish samples have been collected with a view to identify and to study morphological deformities, if any.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fish samples have been collected by deployment of bottom trawl net operated from FORV Sagar Sampada hauling at a speed of approximately 4 knots per hour in the Grid No. 2991 (06°40·76'N, 93°45·67'E to 06°42·08'N, 93°46·91'E) where the depth was 50 ± 3 mts. The net was damaged due to the uneven bottom topography and the salvaged specimens have been studied,
RESULTS

Altogether 21 samples belonging to 3 families, 4 genera and 5 species have been collected and identified. One sample of each species has been brought and

Map 1: Collection Station # 2991.
deposited with the Marine Biological Station, Zoological Survey of India, Madras while the rest have been handed over to other participating agencies. None of the samples exhibited any teratogenic phenomenon, stunted growth, visible tar deposit and meristic variations. The samples with MBS/ZSI, Madras have been identified as under.

Class: OSTEICHTHYES
Order: PERCIFORMES
Family: LETHRINIDAE

Genus: Gymnoeranius Klunzinger, 1870


1. Gymnoeranius grandoculis (Valenciennes, 1830)


Material examined: 1, 275 mm in SL, off Indira Point, 29.09.93.

Distinguishing characters: D X, 10 ; A III, 10 ; P 14 ; V I, 5 ; GR 2+5 ; LL 48+2 ; Ltr 5½/17 ; cheek scale 5 ; depth 2·6 in SL ; head 2·9 in SL ; eye 3·0 in head.

Distribution: Widely distributed in Indo-west Pacific.

Remarks: This species has been referred to as G. robinsoni (Gilchrist and Thompson, 1908) in recent literature. The sample is 2·64 times in SL deviating from the range (2·4 to 2·5) prescribed by Carpenter and Allen (1989),
Genus: Lethrinus Cuvier, 1829

1829. Lethrinus Cuvier, Regne Animal., 2 : 184 (Type: Sparus choerynchus Bloch and Schneider, 1801 = Lethrinus nebulosus (Forsskal, 1775).

2. Lethrinus conchyliatus (Smith, 1959)


Material examined: 1, 323 mm in SL, off Indira Point, 29.09.93.

Distinguishing characters: D X, 9; A III, 8; P 13; V I, 5; GR 4+5; LL 48; Ltr 4 1/16; depth 3.3 in SL; head 2.8 in SL; eye 4.9 in head.

Distribution: Indian Ocean—Tanzania, Madagascar, Chagos, Andamans to southern Indonesia.

3. Lethrinus microdon Valenciennes, 1830

1830. Lethrinus microdon Valenciennes, Hist. nat. poiss., 6 : 295 (Bourou).

Material examined: 1, 324 mm in SL, off Indira Point, 29.09.93.

Distinguishing characters: D X, 9; A III, 8; P 13; V I, 5; GR 4+5; LL 48; Ltr 4 1/16; depth 3.4 in SL; head 2.9 in SL; eye 5.0 in head.

Distribution: Wide-spread in Indo-west Pacific.

Order: TETRAODONTIFORMES

Family: BALISTIDAE

Genus: Pseudobalistes Bleeker, 1866

4. Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus (Ruppell, 1829)

1986. Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus: Smith and Heemstra, Smith's Sea Fishes: 880, pl. 136, fig. 263.11.

Material examined: 1, 420 mm in SL, off Indira Point, 29.09.93.

Distinguishing characters: D III + 26; A 24; P 15; LS 32; Ltr 20; depth 2·0 in SL, 2·6 in TL; head 3·0 in SL; eye 5·8 in head.

Distribution: Wide-spread in Indo-Pacific.

Family: OSTRACIIDAE

Genus: Ostracion Linnaeus, 1758


5. Ostracion meleagris Shaw, 1796

1796. Ostracion meleagris Shaw in Shaw and Nodder, Nat. Miscell., 7: pl. 253 (South Pacific).

Material examined: 1, 28·5 mm in TL (22·2 mm in carapace length), off Indira Point, 29.09.93.

Distinguishing characters: D 9; A 9; P 10; C 10; depth 2·0 in TL, 1·02 in width; head 3·2 in TL; eye 2·25 in head; carapace 4-ridged and spineless, ridges blunt; dorsal ridge absent; back convex; mouth opening in carapace less than eye.

Colour: Greenish-brown to black with white spots.

Remarks: This is the first record of occurrence from Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands.
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