

from South Africa described by Carlgren<sup>4</sup> and *L. vanhoeffeni*, described by Browne<sup>5</sup> from the Antarctic. The genus *Lucernaria* includes only species known from the colder regions of the Atlantic. Both these genera are unrepresented in Japanese coasts where a number of other interesting Stauromedusæ are known.<sup>6</sup> Now that this rare group of Coelenterates is known from the Krusadai it is hoped that a more intensive search will be made for Lucernarians in other coastal regions of India. It would appear that the group is not so strictly bipolar as is commonly assumed. The possibility of these medusæ being brought to the tropical zone by means of cold currents from the south also needs careful study.

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August 15, 1944.

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#### THE FOOD OF RIBBON-FISH *TRICHIURUS*. Spp.\*

The Ribbon fishes, commonly known as "Thalayan" on the west-coast of our Presidency, are ribbon-like in appearance possessed of an elongated body, which is compressed from side to side. These fishes afford a good fishery from September to end of November, after which period catches are very poor upto end of March.

The study on the food of the Ribbon-fish was based upon a systematic examination of the stomach contents of 281 specimens of *T. savala* (Cuv. and Val.), 208 specimens of *T. haumela* (Forsk) and 2 specimens of *T. motticus* (Gray). This has established the fact that Ribbon-fishes are mainly carnivorous in their feeding habits. Besides, it has been possible to infer from the many observations made, that their appetite is something insatiable. Several specimens when examined showed the stomach unusually distended and gorged with foodmaterials in different stages of the digestive process.

Coupled with the voracity for eating, these carnivorous fishes exhibit a total lack of choice as regards their food. So indiscriminate is their feeding habit, that sometimes, their abundance may have some adverse effect on other fisheries. For instance, the samples of *T. savala*, examined on 10th September 1943, revealed the stomach to be literally clogged with macerated fish-eggs, which feature would very likely hit other fisheries.

Prawns and White-baits constitute their favourite food, for these were invariably found in all stomachs. Ribbon-fishes are so partial to prawns and white-baits that they pursue them for long distances. Ribbon-fishes since they follow shoals of white-baits and prawns have been profitably hauled by fishermen in those localities where prawns and white-

baits abound. Besides, statistics point out that there is some relation between the fishery of Ribbon-fish and white-bait, for when the white-bait fishery is poor, than that of Ribbon-fish is also comparatively little.

The other items of food found in their stomach are given below:—

1. Sardine (*Sardinella fimbriata*).
2. Silverbelly (*Leiognathus splendens*,  
*L. bindus*).
3. Sole (*Cynoglossus semifasciatus*).
4. Big-jawed Jumper (*Lactarius Lactarius*).
5. Rainbow-sardine (*Dussumieria hasselti*).
6. Anchovy (*Engraulis mystax*,  
*E. dussumieri*).
7. Glass-fish (*Ambassis dayi*).
8. Grunter (*Pristipoma* spp.).
9. Horse-Mackerel (*Caranx*. spp.).
10. White Sardine (*Kowala thoracata*).
11. Jew Fish (*Sciaena*. spp.).
12. Fish Larvæ, Eggs, Sand-grains.

Marine Biological Station,  
West-Hill,

March 12, 1944.

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#### ACCLIMATISATION OF SALT-WATER MULLET *MUGIL SEHELI* TO FRESH WATER†

DEVANESEN AND CHACKO\* have shown how fry of Mulletts—*Mugil troschelii* and *M. waigiensis* taken from the sea—can be accumulated to the freshwater conditions at Krusadai Biological Station. Commenting on this note Hora has pointed out the great practical importance of culture of these fishes in the areas adjoining the sea-shore. This note embodies the results of acclimatisation of a common Mullet along the West Coast—*Mugil seheili*.

South of the West-Hill Marine Biological Station is a stream which is connected with the sea during high tide but is cut off from it by a sand bar during low tide. It is noticed that during low tide *Mugil seheili* are trapped in the stream. The fishes were collected from this locality and kept in a glass tank filled with salt-water. The water in the tank was kept constantly aerated by means of a simple aeration apparatus. Gradually the salinity of the water in the tank was reduced by the admixture of fresh well water for a period of 12 days when the tank was filled entirely with fresh-water. The fishes were fed on fresh plankton—Copepod, Leucifer, Sagitta, etc. It was observed that the fishes were not in the least affected by the changes in salinity. They continued to thrive very well in fresh-water. There is every reason to believe that the freshwater fishery resources can be made more productive by stocking them with *Mugil seheili*.

Marine Biological Station,  
West-Hill,

December 10, 1943.

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† Published with the kind permission of the Director of Industry and Commerce, Madras.

\* Devanesen D. W., and Chacko P. I., *Pro. Nat. Inst Sci.*, 1943 19, No. 2.