

T. VENKATESWARLU, George VERGHESE

Physiography

OCCURRENCE OF THE BAT-FISH, *PEGASUS DRACONIS* L.
(*PEGASIFORMES: PEGASIDAE*) IN LAKSHADWEEP (INDIA)

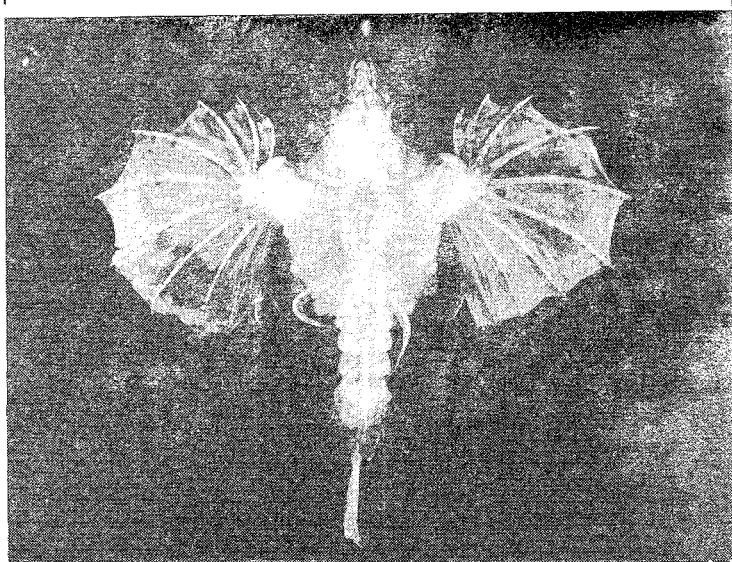
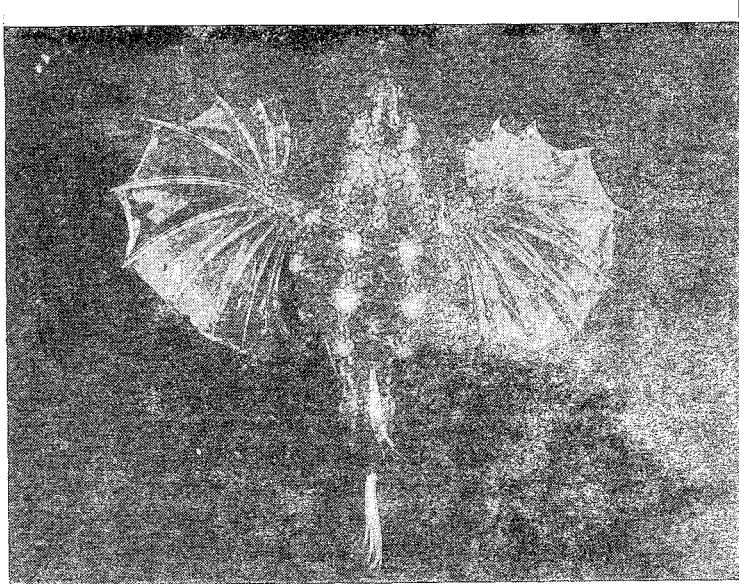
WYSTĘPOWANIE PEGAZA *PEGASUS DRACONIS* L.
(*PEGASIFORMES: PEGASIDAE*) W LAKSHADWEEP (INDIE)

Zoological Survey of India, Madras
Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Kavaretti

In India *Pegasus draconis* L. had been described just one time by Day (1889) – it came from Port Blair of South Andamans archipelago. Presently the authors report second case of its catch on the reefs surrounding Kavaretti Island (Laccadive Islands).

Day (1889) recorded *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from the Andamans; Johnstone (1904) and Munro (1955) recorded *Pegasus (Parapegasus) natans* (Linnaeus) from the Pearl Banks of Ceylon; and Munro (1955) recorded *Pegasus (Parapegasus) volans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from Ceylon. According to Herre (1953) *Pegasus (Parapegasus) natans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus (Parapegasus) volans* (Linnaeus) are synonymous with *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus. Smith (1965) recognised only *Pegasus draconicus* Linnaeus and *Pegasus natans* Linnaeus based on the number of rings, under the family *Pegasidae*. The family *Pegasidae* is Indo-Pacific in its distribution, extending from East Africa to Japan and Australia.

Pegasus volitans Linnaeus was reported from Indian waters by Jones and Pantulu (1958), Krishnamurthy (1961), Jayadev Babu (1966) and Venkateswarlu (1976), but there is no record of *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from Indian waters after Day (1889).



Pegasus draconis L. from Lakshadweep

Photograph 1. dorsal view

Photograph 2. ventral view

who based his description on a single specimen procured from Port Blair, Andamans. So this is a valuable record of a fully grown specimen from Lakshadweep Islands.

A single adult specimen of *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus was obtained on 28.2.1978 from a catch of a drag net dragged within a distance of about 200 meters from the shore of Kavaretti Island, the capitol of Lakshadweep, near the Fisheries Jetty. Subsequent dragnet catches from the same locality during next three days yielded no more specimens of this fish. This fish is believed to inhabit rocky zones of the shallow inshore waters, and the shore of Kavaretti is rocky with plenty of corals.

The present specimen measures 70 mm in total length. The upper surface is reticulated with brown and lower surface is paler. The pectoral fine have brown dots and white margin.

The specimen was deposited in the collections of the Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Madras with Reg. No. F. 377.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The senior author (T.V.) is thankful to Dr. T.N. Ananthakrishnan, Director, Z.S.I., Calcutta and O/C, S.R.S., Z.S.I., Madras for providing facilities and encouragement and to Shri S. Vijayaraghavan, Photographer for the photographs.

REFERENCES

- Day, F., 1889: Fishes: Fauna of British India, 2 Vols. London.
Herre, A.W., 1953: Checklist of Philippine Fishes. Washington (U.S. Govt. Printing Office).
Jayadev Babu, S., 1966: Occurrence of the Bat-fish, *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus (Pegasiformes: Pegasidae), from the coastal waters of India. — J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 63, 1:210–211.
Johnstone, J., 1904: Ceylon Pearl Cyster.— Fisheries and Marine Biology, 2:201–203.
Jones, S. and Pantulu, V.R., 1958: On some larval and juvenile fishes from the Bengal and Orissa coasts.— Indian J. Fish., 5:118–143.
Krishnamurthy, K., 1961: Occurrence of a very early stage of *Parapegasus natans* (Linnaeus), from the near-shore waters of Portonovo, South India.— J. Mar. Biol. Ass. India., 3:271–272.
Munro, Ian S.R., 1955: The Marine and Fresh water Fishes of Ceylon. Canberra.
Smith, J.L.B., 1965: The Sea fishes of Southern Africa. Central News Agency Ltd., Southern Africa.
Venkateswarlu, T., 1976: Occurrence of the Bat-fish, *Pegasus volitans* Linnaeus (Pegasiformes: Pegasidae) from the coastal waters of India.— J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 71, 3:620–621.

**WYSTĘPOWANIE PEGAZA PEGASUS DRACONIS L. (PEGASIFORMES'
PEGASIDAE) W ARCHIPELAGU LEKADIWY (INDIE)**

Streszczenie

Dotychczas z terenu Indii znany był jeden przypadek znalezienia pegaza z gatunku *Pegasus draconis* L. z Archipelagu Adamans (okolice Port Blair) podany na podstawie znalezienia jednego okazu przez Day'a (1889).

Obecnie autorzy opisują przypadek znalezienia tego gatunku w Archipelagu Lekadiwy z wyspy Kavaretti w pobliżu Fisheries Jetty. Również tylko jednego okazu.

Т. Венкatesварду, Г. Варгхесе

**ОБНАРУЖЕНИЕ ПЕГАСА PEGASUS DRACONIS L. (PEGASIFORMES; PEGASIDAE)
В РАЙОНЕ АРХИПЕЛАГА ЛЕКАДИВЫ (ИНДИЯ)**

Резюме

До сих пор на территории Индии был известен только один случай обнаружения пегаса из вида *Pegasus draconis* L. в архипелаге Адаманс (в районе Порт Блиер). О нем известно на основании сообщения Дейя (Day, 1889). Авторы описывают случай обнаружения этого вида в районе архипелага Лекадивы на острове Каваретти по близости Fisheries Jetty. Нашли тоже единичный экземпляр.

Перевод: др Юзеф Домагала

Authors addresses:

Received: 13 VII 1979

T. Venkateswarlu
Southern Regional Station,
Zoological Survey of India,
Madras 600028, India.
George Verghese
Union Territory of Lakshadwepp,
Kavaretti, 673555, India.