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Physiography

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

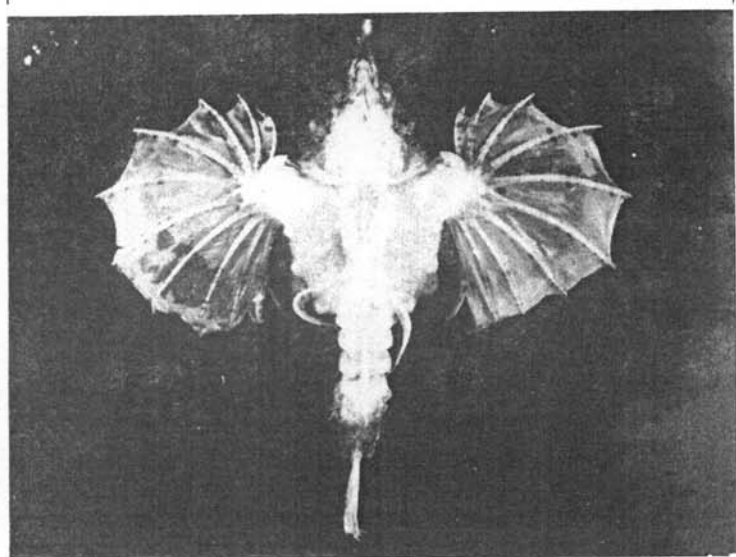
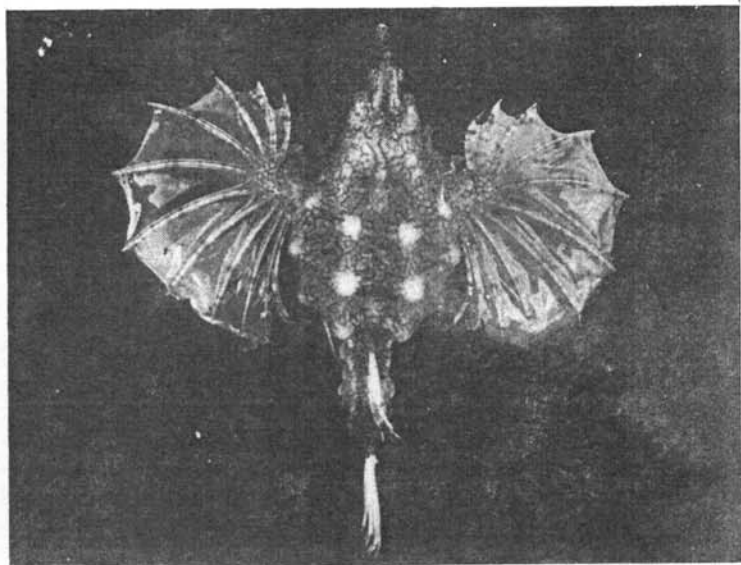
WYSTĘPOWANIE PEGAŻA *PEGASUS DRACONIS* L.
(*PEGASIFORMES: PEGASIDAE*) W LAKSHADWEEP (INDIE)

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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 (Parapegusus) natans* (Linnaeus) from the Pearl Banks of Ceylon; and Munro (1955) recorded *Pegasus (Parapegusus) volans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus draconis* Linnaeus from Ceylon. According to Herre (1953) *Pegasus (Parapegusus) natans* (Linnaeus) and *Pegasus (Parapegusus) 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 recorded 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 fin has 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.

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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.

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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 Блйер). 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 единственный экземпляр.

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