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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIOLOGY OF *SIGANUS STELLATUS*
AND *SIGANUS VIRGATUS* FROM WATERS AROUND JAFFNA

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Siganus stellatus and *Siganus virgatus* are two sparsely occurring species of Siganids found along the coastal area and brackish water bodies of the Northern part of Sri Lanka. Collections were made using traps, cast nets,

set-nets, sirahu valai and torch from January 1982 to December 1985. 23 specimens of Siganus stellatus and 22 specimens of Siganus virgatus ranging in standard length from 62mm to 303mm and 22mm to 166mm respectively were used in this investigation. These formed only 2.0% of the 1096 specimens of Siganids collected during this period.

Morphometrics, length-weight relationships, food and fecundity were investigated. The calculated length weight relationships of $W = 1^{2.9709} \times 0.03599$ in Siganus stellatus and $W = 1^{3.0500} \times 0.00035$ in Siganus virgatus reflect an almost isometric growth. The length-weight parabola in both the species indicates that it would be economical to catch only large size fish above 150mm standard length.

Analysis of stomach contents indicated that both species are purely herbivores, feeding on diatoms, blue-greens, green algae, red algae and an angiosperm Thalassia. Thalassia formed the dominant part of the diet, both in composition and frequency of occurrence.

The mean fecundity values were 7.2×10^6 in Siganus stellatus and 2.0×10^6 in Siganus virgatus.

This work was supported by NAFSA Research Grant No. RGB/81/11.