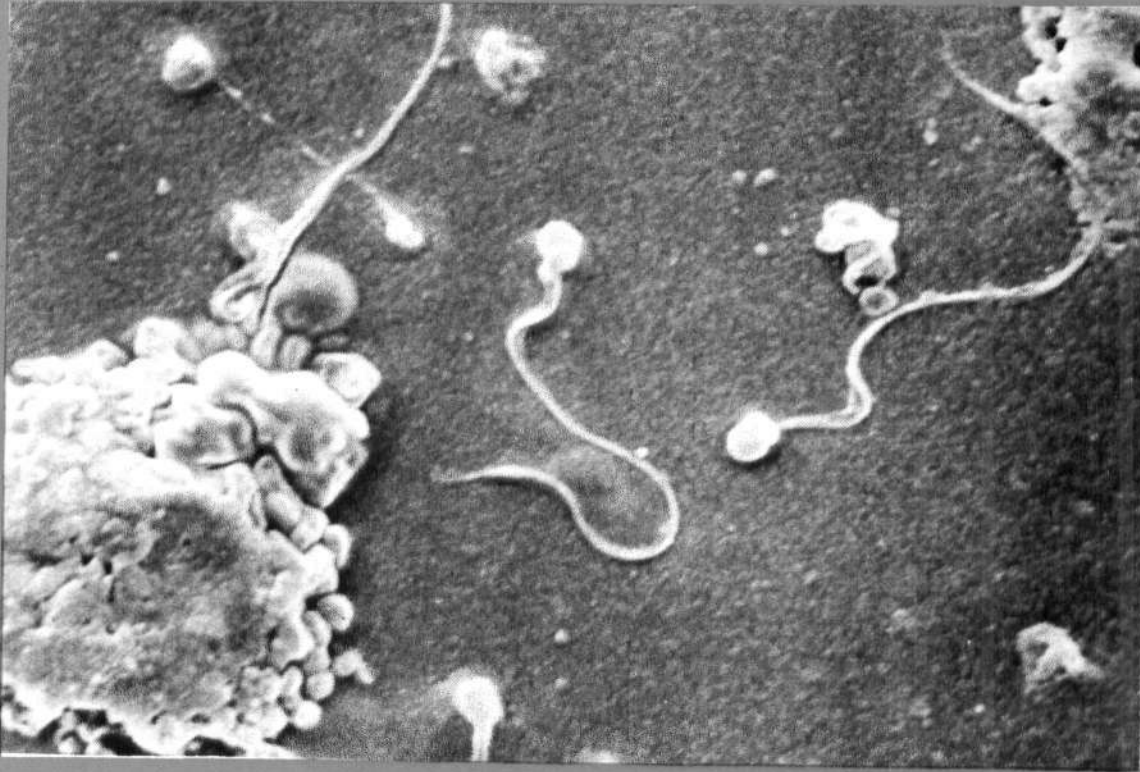




समुद्री मात्स्यकी सूचना सेवा MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
अनुसंधान संस्थान RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कोचिन, भारत COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ON THE LANDING OF A LEATHERBACK TURTLE*

A female of the least abundant sea turtle in the Indian seas, the leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea* Schlegelii (Fig. 1), locally known as 'odavitta amai', was caught incidentally on 3-8-1991 in a boat seine operated 1 km off Colachel (western coast of Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu) at 15 m depth. The turtle, weighing about 250 kg had the following morphometric measurements in cm.

Total length	..	213.0
Length of carapace	..	173.2
Width of carapace	..	132.4
Length of plastron	..	154.7
Width of plastron	..	86.0
Width of head	..	32.5
Length of anterior flipper	..	106.7
Length of posterior flipper	..	68.8



Fig. 1. Ventral view of the leatherback turtle caught off Colachel on 3-8-1991.

The turtle was auctioned for Rs. 750/- at the beach and transported to a nearby market for disposal of its flesh in fresh condition for human consumption.

* Reported by I. P. Ebenezer, Kanyakumari Field Centre of CMFRI, Kanyakumari, and Jacob Jerold Joel, Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI, Vizhinjam - 695 521.