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ON THE LITTLE KNOWN ELECTRIC
RAY *NARKE* (*BENGALICHTHYS*) *IM-
PENNIS* FROM INDIA.—*Bengalichthys im-
pennis* was originally described by Annan-
dale (1909) on two specimens from the Orissa
Coast, Bay of Bengal. Garman (1913) re-
described the type specimens, but included
them in the genus *Narke*. Fowler (1941)
treated *Bengalichthys* as a subgenus of the
genus *Narke*. It is surprising that there

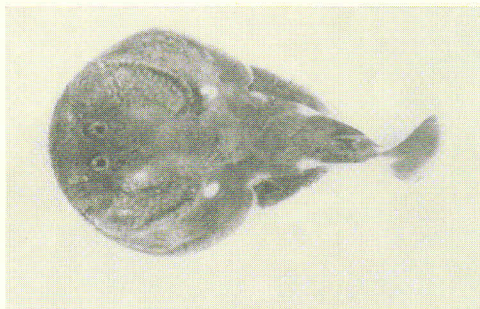


Fig. 1. *Narke* (*Bengalichthys*) *impennis*, BMNH 1973.4.26.1. (Male).

is no subsequent record of this species from anywhere in the Indo-Pacific region. The holotype is in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, F 2357/1 (A. G. K. Menon, pers. comm.). The species is here recorded from Kakinada, Bay of Bengal, after a lapse of about 64 years. It can be identified with the help of Fowler's key.

Description.—Two specimens, Kakinada. One, 165 mm TL, male, deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), London, BMNH 1973.4.26.1. The following measurements were made on the two specimens:

| | Male | Female |
|--|------|--------|
| | mm | mm |
| Total length | 165 | 119 |
| Head length (snout to hind margin of spiracle) | 25 | 14 |
| Snout length | 17 | 11 |
| Interorbital width | 14 | 10 |
| Height of dorsal fin | 15 | 12 |
| Caudal fin length | 28 | 20 |
| Pelvic base | 35 | 27 |
| Length of disk | 75 | 59 |
| Width of disk | 91 | 64 |
| Tail length | 90 | 60 |

Head length (snout to hind margin of spiracle) 8 to 8.5 in total length. Snout length 1.27 to 1.47 in head length, eyes minute, close to spiracles. Teeth with triangular transverse ridge; long rectangular process on roof of mouth, directed backwards, its terminal edge sinuous but not bilobed, and a similar smaller process on floor of mouth. Interorbital width 1.4 to 1.78 in head length.

Dorsal small, half way between hind corner of pelvic base and caudal; height 1.16 to 1.66 in head length; caudal length 4.89 to 4.95 in rest of body, rounded pos-

teriorly; pectorals form an ovate disk, pelvics distinct.

Color.—Dorsal surface of disk and tail dark but not intense brown. A large round to oval spot on each side between posterior margin of electric organs and root of tail. A white backwardly directed streak at either side of base of disk; a forwardly directed streak on either flank in front of dorsal fin. Margins of pectoral, ventral and caudal white. Posterior margin of dorsal white. Ventral surface pale.

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