

Syngnathidae and four species among the Heterosomata not hitherto recorded off Ceylon. These are:

Name	No. of specimens in the collection	Locality
<i>Syngnathus cyanospilus</i> Bleeker ...	4	Pearl banks and off Jaffna.
<i>Hippocampus hystrix</i> Kaup ...	1	Pearl banks.
<i>Hippocampus trimaculatus</i> Leach ...	4	Pearl banks.
<i>Pseudorhombus dupliciociellatus</i> Regan ...	2	Pearl banks.
<i>Pseudorhombus elevatus</i> Ogilby ...	13	Pearl banks and off Panadura.
<i>Pardachirus marmoratus</i> (Lacépède) ...	2	Pearl banks.
<i>Brachirus albomaculatus</i> (Kaup) ...	1	Off Negombo.

Amongst these first records the record of *Pseudorhombus dupliciociellatus* and *Hippocampus trimaculatus* off Ceylon indicates a westward extension of the range of distribution of these species, whilst the record of *Pardachirus marmoratus* off Ceylon indicates an eastward extension of its range of distribution.

The Colombo Museum also possesses a single specimen of *Pegasus volitans* Linné collected from China Bay, Trincomalee. This is the second record of this species for the Indian Ocean, the first being that of Johnstone (1904, Pearl Oyster Reports, pt. 2, p. 214) from off Aripu.

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18. FOOD OF THE WHALE SHARK, *RHINEODON TYPUS* (SMITH): EVIDENCE OF A JĀTAKA SCULPTURE, 2ND CENTURY B.C.

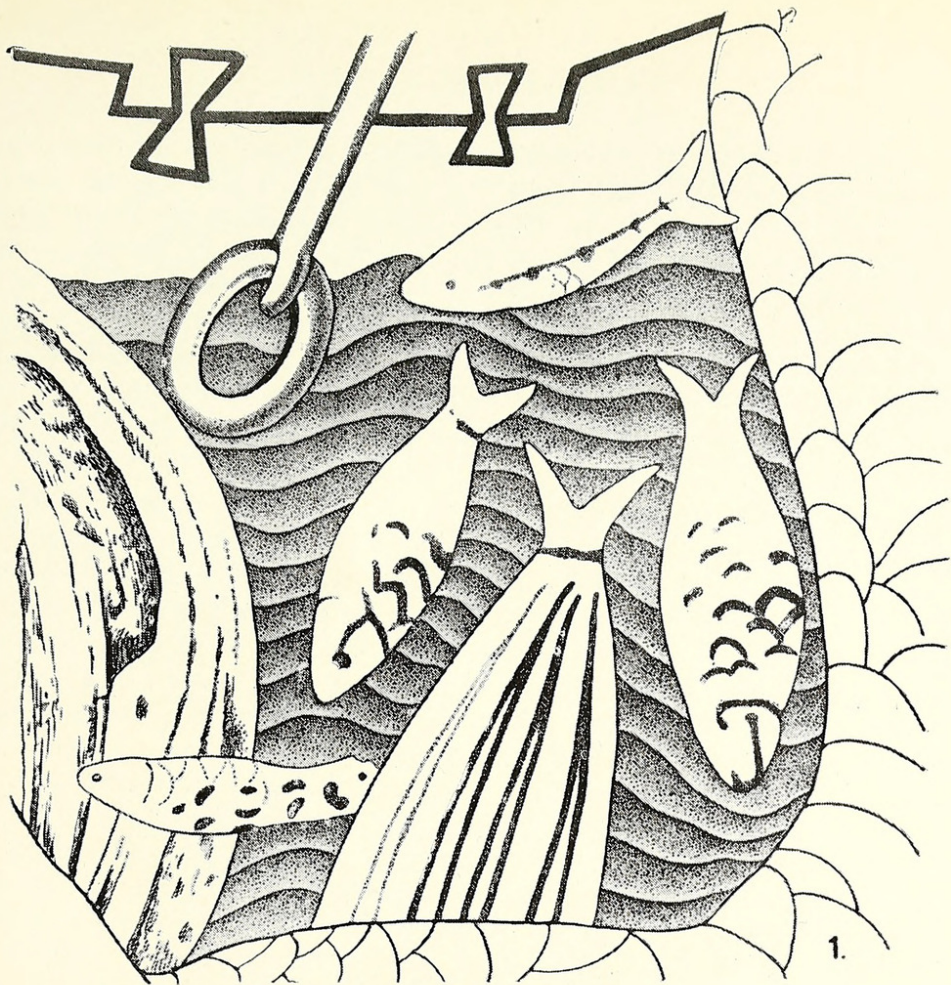
(With a plate)

It is not my intention to enter into a controversy raised in McCann's recent article¹, in which he has tried to prove that the Whale Shark is a vegetarian fish, browsing on long filamentous marine algae, as against Gudger's statement² to the following effects:

'However, *Rhineodon* must need and must get bulkier food. This it undoubtedly finds in sardines and like small surface-feeding fishes,

¹ McCann, C. The Whale Shark, *Rhineodon typus* (Smith). *JBNHS*, 52: pp. 326-333 (1954).

² Gudger, E. W. What ultimately terminates the life span of the Whale Shark, *Rhineodon typus*? *ibid.*, 51: pp. 879-884 (1953).



Timingila Jātaka Medallion (2nd century B.C.) depicting 'Whale Shark'



Hora, S L. 1956. "Food of the Whale Shark, *Rhineodon Typus* (Smith): Evidence of a Jataka Sculpture, 2Nd Century B.c." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 53, 478–479.

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