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PART I

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SOME ASPECTS OF BIOLOGY OF TWO JUVENILE RABBIT FISHES
SIGANUS JAVUS (LINNEUS) AND *SIGANUS ORAMIN* (BLOCH & SCHNEIDER)

W. M. Indrasena¹ and M. J. S. Wijeyaratne²

¹National Aquatic Resources Agency, Crow Island, Colombo 15. ²Dept of Zoology,
University of Kelaniya.

The food and feeding habits, morphological features associated with feeding and some morphometrics of two juvenile rabbit fishes *Siganus javus* and *S. oramin* from Negombo lagoon and Puttalam lagoon were studied.

The diet of *S. javus* and *S. oramin* from both localities indicated that they are herbivores. A negligible amount of animal matter was found in *S. oramin* from Puttalam lagoon. The composition of the diet of different size groups of the same species was also found to vary from each other. Morphological features such as the shape and the position of mouth, the nature, number, size and the spacing of gill rakers, teeth and mean relative gut length of both species were observed to be related to their feeding habits.

Morphometric parameters of both fish species in Negombo lagoon were compared with those in Puttalam lagoon to investigate whether they are of two stocks. But those parameters alone were not enough to reach a conclusion.