

Is *Sepiella inermis* ‘Spineless’?

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Abstract: Many a report seemed to project at a noble notion of having identified some novel and bioactive compounds claimed to have been found from *Sepiella inermis*; but lagged to log their novelty scarcely defined due to certain technical blunders they seem to have coldly committed in such valuable pieces of aboriginal research works, reported to have sophisticatedly been accomplished but unnoticed with considerable lack of significant finesse. They have dealt with finer biochemicals already been reported to have been available from *S.inermis*; yet, to one’s dismay, have failed to maintain certain conventional means meant for original research. This quality review discusses about the illogical math rooting toward and logical aftermath branching from especially certain spectral reports.

Keywords: *Sepiella inermis*, ink, melanin, DOPA

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I. Introduction

Sepiella inermis is a demersally¹ benthonektonic², Molluscan, cephalopod ‘spineless’ cuttlefish species, with invaluable juveniles³, from the megametrical Indian coast⁴⁻⁶, as incidental catches in shore seine⁷ &⁸, as egg clusters⁹ from shallow waters¹ after monsoon at Vizhinjam coast¹⁰ and Goa coast¹¹ of India and sundried, abundantly but rarely⁸.

II. Discussion

Habit and Habitat

The Genus of *S.inermis* was enlisted in national catalogues^{12 & 13} from Malaysia¹⁴, Japan¹⁵, India¹⁶ and England¹⁷. Critical¹⁸ habitat of *S.inermis* provided wild eggs with lower survival^{19 & 20}. *S.inermis* bore to the eastern and the western waters of the Indian Ocean²¹, almost southern to Asia²² probably from clockwise Coriolis Effect in the southern hemisphere but counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere.

Sexual Dimorphism

The shells of *S.inermis* displayed clear sexual dimorphism²³⁻²⁵ evident from trawling²⁶ which destructed benthic habitats¹⁸. Benthic habitats are critical for the crucial survival of *S.inermis*, amid trawling. Whole individuals of *S.inermis* were also incidentally collected from trawl-, push- and lift-nets^{8, 22, 27 & 28} at Mandapam^{29 & 30}, India. Categories of its maturity stages³⁰ along with the genders as immature, maturing and mature are possible with its critical habitat¹⁸ only, anabolizing females larger than males²².

Incidental Availability

The incidentality of *S.inermis* might be due to the migratory behaviour of its females for the deposition of eggs⁸, trawling¹⁸ and exploitation¹⁰. Eastern catches of *S.inermis* in India find Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar^{31 & 32} as its inshore habitats from Coriolis Effect of two counter-clockwise water currents, thanks to Adam’s bridge. *S.inermis*, once an edible inshore catch in India³³, distributed in Indian Ocean³⁴, might be exhausted by human exploitation. The counter-clockwise distribution of benthic *S.inermis* and other cephalopods was wide along the Indo-Pacific region^{18, 35 & 36}, comprising of Indian and Pacific inshores but tropically populated only by *S.inermis*, climatically oriented within the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Such a phantom species was availed for its maternal migration into shores for breeding⁸ and differences in the distribution of its habitats¹⁸. Maternal migration and hemispherical distribution of *S.inermis* signify for its specific complexity²² amidst sparser availability³⁷.

Gender and Seasonality

Sexual dimorphism in *S.inermis* evinced from their shells²⁵, body length⁸ and body weight⁸ yet femininely mystified in spectral studies^{38 & 39}. Length at sex-specific maturity varied across coasts of India²² but spectrally missed^{38 & 39}.

Seasons varied in meat content of *S.inermis*^{40 & 41} and in the water quality of the catch area of *S.inermis*²⁸. The four seasons are dependants upon the inclination of the Earth, varying between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, alternating along the hemispheres, revolutionally, reflecting in estuarine inputting into inshores as mineral variations in the meat of *S.inermis*^{40 & 41}. Seasons play a role in the significant variations critiqued¹⁸ in the habitat⁴² as well as the meat of *S.inermis*⁴³.

Nutrition and Migration

Prawn was discovered the main food³⁰ digested by *S.inermis*⁴⁴; mysid shrimps were constantly preyed upon by its hatchlings⁴⁵⁻⁴⁸. *Eurobowmaniella simulans* was found a trophically omnivorous but cannibalistic link between phytoplanktons and the juveniles of *S.inermis*¹⁰, whose breeders were fed upon by *Nemipterus japonicus*⁴⁹, *Saurida tumbil*⁵⁰ and, passively, *Rachycentron canadum*⁵¹. *E.simulans*, *S.inermis* and *N.japonicus* were recorded together⁵²⁻⁵⁴, *S.tumbil* trashed along with *S.inermis* at Tuticorin⁵⁵, India.

Salinity higher in the inshore waters of *S.inermis* collected during March along with slight alkalinity near river mouth²⁸ varying along the gradients of freshwater mixing with the marine water might ensure the sustainability of *S.inermis*, abundantly frequenting inshores during night⁵³. Migration by some shallow-water cuttlefish species⁵⁶, including *S.inermis*^{1 & 56}, as a seasonal response to changes in temperature had also been reported⁵⁶. Increase in the salinity of waters of the critical habitat of *S.inermis*¹⁸ might have instigated its females and *E.simulans* to migrate nightly¹⁰ and constrain their distribution⁵⁶ ashore.

Extinction of a prey species, say *E.simulans*¹⁰, might initiate successive extinction of a predatory species, say *S.inermis*, followed by *N.japonicus*⁴⁹, *S.tumbil*⁵⁰ and *R.canadum*⁵¹.

Maternity & Paternity

Spawning by *S.inermis*⁸, when salinity increases in the coastal waters²⁸ after heavy rainfall¹⁸ avoids trashing⁵⁵ by humans¹⁸ and its males transfer sperm packets into the buccal area of females employing hectocotylyzed arms⁵⁶. Free sperm were found penetrating into oocytes within the ovaries of some cephalopod species⁵⁷. Females of *S.inermis* wipe spermatophores onto each egg⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ and mask their individual eggs laid with black pigments⁶¹ from their ink-sac secretions for disguise⁵⁶ from marauders.

Juveniles

No sooner had they hatched than the hatchlings of *S.inermis* did show some adult behaviour⁴⁷. Fully formed embryos of *S.inermis* had responded to experimental shocks, by giving gremlin jerks and releasing ink²⁰, staying within the transparent eggs. The release of ink in *S.inermis* might play an intraspecific-pheromonal role⁶², ideal to its embryonic ink ejection. Ink ejection was an escape response of juvenile cephalopods⁶³ and the ink secreted by younger individuals of *S.inermis* contained higher concentrations of an alkaloid⁶³, melanin, which might anaesthetize the chemoreceptive senses of fish⁶³ predatory to *S.inermis*⁶³. The juveniles of *S.inermis* involve dihydroxy phenyl alanine (DOPA) and dihydroxy phenethyl amine (DOPAmine)⁶² to badly withstand extinction, staying planktonic in culture before becoming benthic²² and grouping during immaturity⁶⁵ before they mature and later become mature spawners³⁰ in critical habitat¹⁸ schooling with other cuttlefish species⁶⁰.

Melanin and Adaptation

Melanin biosynthesis in the ink gland of cephalopods under the catalysis of tyrosine by tyrosinase⁶⁶ possesses a metabolism broader than the production of melanin, initial after the maturation of the ink gland⁶⁷. Tyrosinase critically limits the biosynthetic rate of melanin⁶⁸, an organic polymer of 5, 6-dihydroxyindole⁶⁹, not spectrally reported in the ink extracts from *S.inermis*^{38 & 39}.

Cuttlefish ink might be composed of melanin, enzymes and precursors of melanin⁶². DOPA and its derivatives upto melanin (polymer of 5, 6-dihydroxyindole) were all biosynthesized from tyrosine⁶⁷ but through different biosynthetic pathways, preferentially pulsated by the selective physiology of the animal, may it be *S.inermis*. Maturity of ink glands may be speculated in the juveniles and the spawning females of *S.inermis*, as they eject ink as a response to mechanical shocks²⁰ and as a disguise over eggs laid⁵⁶, respectively. The need of the animal, being DOPAmine inhibition⁷⁰ of ink ejection, might have initiated the biosynthesis of DOPAmine in juveniles and spawners of *S.inermis*. The need, being melanin synthesis at maturity⁶⁷, in fully formed embryos²⁰, juveniles⁶³ and spawners⁵⁶ of *S.inermis*, might have cascaded the DOPAmine synthesized from tyrosine toward the melanin biosynthetic pathway⁶⁷.

DOPA and DOPAmine were reported to mimic the effects of cuttlefish ink on neurons⁶² and DOPAmine is capable of inhibiting even milk ejection⁷⁰, which might be compared with ink ejection in *S.inermis*. The momentary adaptivity of tyrosinase strikes either the doping or the melanizing effects of DOPAmine to pocket the feeding and threatening behaviours, respectively, of *S.inermis*. Rapidity of oxidation of DOPA and DOPAmine in seawater after ink ejection by *S.inermis*, might be slowed down by an antioxidant

in the ink⁶², failure of whose activity would result in weak control over ink ejection even in embryonic *S.inermis*²⁰.

Antioxidance

The spineless cuttlefish was known for containing selenium along with considerable number of microgrammes of antioxidant vitamin E⁷¹, essential for impeding the oxidative degradation of polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), which process had also been clued for slowing down the oxidation of DOPA and DOPAmine by an antioxidant component in cuttlefish ink⁶². Concentrations of iron, manganese, zinc and copper had been estimated in *S.inermis*^{72 & 73}, which metals were cofactorially essential for physiologies of certain antioxidant enzymes⁷⁴. Vitamin C was also an essential component of *S.inermis* along with vitamin A⁷¹ both unsynthesizable by human anabolism, yet vitamin C essential for human absorption of dietary iron, which would also be inhospitable for the enzymatic antioxidation of certain oxidants⁷⁴ and, considerably, measured in *S.inermis*⁷² also.

Ethics

More ethical fathom is required into the significance of maternal gender of *S.inermis* because they seem to be the incidental trawl-catches from their wild habitat⁸, negligence of which would enter the species into the threatened category of IUCN¹⁸. Also, the feminine gender of *S.inermis* demands consideration, as its species name has suited its unarmed⁷⁴ but adaptive nature. Ethics⁷⁶ is of worse need in experiments involving and going to involve the wild species of *S.inermis*. Chloroform had been employed for extracting ink from *S.inermis*³⁸ but it must not be used as an extraction solvent^{77 & 78}.

De Novo

The cuttlefish ink clouds might alert the conspecifics as well as threaten the common predators⁶². Self-defending compounds could be synthesized by the organism from its diet or *de novo*⁷⁹. Likewise, the juveniles of *S.inermis*, might have biosynthesized the components of its ink, from DOPA to melanin⁶⁷, *de novo*, speculated to be defensive from their predators, *N.japonicus*⁴⁹ and *S.tumbil*. *E.simulans*, with two species synonyms⁸⁰, was transferred from the genus *Gastrosaccus* to the genus *Eurobowmaniella*⁸¹, owing to the complications it showed in its male copulatory organs⁸². The novel bioactive components believed to exist in the ink of *S.inermis* might have been metabolized from its 'complicated' prey, *E.simulans* and such a predatory species-specificity promises for a discovery of novel biocompounds from the extracts of *E.simulans*, *S.inermis*, *N.japonicus*, *S.tumbil* or *R.canadum* that seems to be phago-mimic⁷⁹, when released in the ink of *S.inermis*. Oxidation of phenols to quinines⁶² catalyzed by tyrosinase⁶⁷ might prove a source for the chemicals hypothesized in cuttlefish ink⁶².

Cultivability

S.inermis had successfully been cultured through generations⁸¹ and proven a suitable species for successful mariculture in captivity^{47, 48 & 84}. They attained first maturity at gender-specific sizes²², mated and spawned after 80 days producing more than 200 viable eggs, incubating for less than 20 days^{83 & 85} and hatching after 10 days¹⁰ but dying after 100 days²² under captivity²⁰. Sexual reproduction in *S.inermis* might shuffle multihybrid alleles for a novel variety of bioactive compounds and, miscellaneously, useful to collagen industries^{86 & 87}.

Extraction

Aqueous Extraction

Aqueous ink extract⁸⁸ of juvenile *S.inermis* collected along the south-east coast of India⁶³ had been shown to have inhibited the catalysis by Moloney murine leukemia virus reverse transcriptase (MMLVRT) even at microconcentrations^{63 & 79}. Extraction of bioactive products from *S.inermis* without employing any extraction solvent⁸⁸ seems to be effective, as even microconcentrations of those products had resulted to be inhibitory against the catalysis of a viral enzyme, MMLVRT⁶³.

Methanol Extraction and Survival

Methanol extract of hepatopancreas of *S.inermis* was reported an important source of bioactive compounds against certain fungi but not certain bacteria⁸⁹, which bactericidal principles might be either, lost or deconformed by methanol extraction⁸⁹. Bacteria survive in estuarine waters⁸⁸ yet in the autochthonous ink cloud of *S.inermis* to be determined. Interestingly, a bacterium had been endeavoured as a probiotic in oral rehydration therapy (ORT) for cholera⁹¹, whose biotics is to be combined with the aqueously extracted hepatopancreatic biotics of *S.inermis* in developing a remedy for cholera.

Multiple biases associated with the guanine-cytosine (GC) content⁹² of a fungus (<50%)⁹³ might allow less probability for mutations in its genome, when compared to the antifungal properties of the methanol extract of sepiellar hepatopancreas. The GC content of another fungus was found still lower (<40%)⁹⁴, whose survival rate would be more⁹⁵ than that of the former, when encountered with the antifungal efficacies of the methanol extract of hepatopancreas of *S.inermis*, whose mitogenomic adenine-thymine (AT) content was reported as being about 75%^{96 & 97}.

The entire structure of spermatophore of *S.inermis* is non-cellular, except for the sperm⁹⁸, which fact is hypothesized that its spermatozoan must have been manched to the most, scarcely, with a single mitochondrion. The reported percentage of AT content of *S.inermis* mitogenome^{96 & 97} is speculated for its exclusively maternal inheritance, availing mutations to survive all the critically adaptable habitats¹⁸. Fertilization very shortly before spawning in certain cephalopods⁵⁷ and the female cuttlefish wiping spermatophores onto each egg very immediate before spawning⁵⁶ might let *S.inermis* adapt toward an improbable incorporation of mitochondria into its male gametes.

Methanolic Preference

Methanol extracts of body tissues of *S.inermis* collected from south-east coast of India expressed good antibacterial activity against human pathogens *in vitro*^{99 & 100}, whereas aqueous ink extracts of juvenile *S.inermis* collected from the same locale directly inhibited the catalysis of a retroviral enzyme, MMLVRT⁶³. The method of extraction plays an important role in preserving the intact conformations of bioactive components of *S.inermis*, comparatively inferred between the antibacterial efficacies of methanol extracts of, probably, its adult body tissues and the antiviral capability of aqueous extracts of its juvenile ink glands. Reconsideration is forwarded to methanolic extraction of bioactive compounds from *S.inermis*, for probably missing 5, 6-dihydroxyindole, monomer of melanin, from being spectrally reported^{38 & 39}. Methanol, hazardous to humans, must be researched before being used for extraction of anything from *S.inermis*, as some study claim about developing drugs³⁹ from methanol ink extracts of *S.inermis*^{38 & 39}.

Chloroform Extraction

Chloroform is recommended not as an extraction solvent for phosgene formation¹⁰¹. Ink was extracted from *S.inermis*, using chloroform (200 ml)³⁸, which might have deformed the integrity of the bioactive compounds by forming phosgene, capable of forming carbamate artifacts with amines¹⁰¹ like DOPamine in the ink of *S.inermis*^{62 & 67} and eventually might have interfered the melanin synthesis. Amine is, unfortunately, available with tyrosine itself, to be probably carbamated by the phosgene formable from chloroform. Addition of methanol³⁸ might remove any phosgene formed but could not prevent artifact formation¹⁰¹. Hence, formation of carbamates with DOPamine present in *S.inermis* ink could not be avoided¹⁰¹, which might have resulted as the spectral absence of the 5, 6-dihydroxyindole in spectral study³⁸ involving chloroform with the ink of *S.inermis*.

Shell Extraction

The ethylene diamine tetra acetate (EDTA) extract of oligosaccharides from the internal shell of *S.inermis* also showed antibacterial activity¹⁰⁰ almost in a similar pattern exhibited by the whole body tissue extract of *S.inermis*^{99 & 100}. This has brought out the agency of the constituent oligosaccharides of the spineless cuttlefish in having exhibited certain antibiotic activities.

Butanol Extraction

Butanol extract of ripe accessory nidamental gland of *S.inermis* had shown some antibacterial activity^{79 & 102}. In this case also, the reported bactericidal property of accessory nidamental gland extract from *S.inermis* might also have had been after being treated with butanol, which could not be tolerated even by the same bacterial species, naturally catalysing its production, above certain level of concentration¹⁰³.

Cuttlebone Extract

The cuttlebone of *S.inermis* had shown some antimicrobial activity¹⁰⁴ while the methanol extract from its flesh showed some cytotoxicity¹⁰⁵. Methanol extraction from its flesh might have been the cause for cytotoxicity, while its cuttlebone extract was found antimicrobial, probably because of its chitin⁷³ or chitosan¹⁰⁶, which was also reported from its shell¹⁰⁷.

Cuttlefish seemed to be good targets for cancer therapy¹⁰⁸ and the ink of *S.inermis* had inhibited the growth of certain organisms¹⁰⁹. The chitin from the cuttlebone of *S.inermis* had also been substrated for the activity of chitinase isolated from a bacterial species⁷³.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is weeding into cuttlefish research^{39 & 110}. It seems hardly practical to access an exclusively terrestrial ecosystem with large catchers like fishing vessels^{38, 39 & 111}. *S.inermis* could have easily been identified from its common name itself, as spineless cuttlefish or needle cuttlefish^{76 & 113} but not^{38 & 39}. The very idea of a dark ink with its melanin granules suspended in a viscous colourless medium originally stated not for the ink of *S.inermis* but for the waste of *Sepia officinalis*¹¹⁴ seemed to have been mistaken along many a publication^{38, 39 & 115 - 119} because of very little care.

Ethnomedicine

Cuttlefish ink is a Chinese traditional medicine listed in the Compendium of Materia Medica¹²⁰ listed down in Chinese classic Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing¹²¹. Such an ink available from *S.inermis* would prove a suitable remedy with its constituent bioactive components, if properly investigated and interpreted, employing a finer extraction method.

Citation

The release by *S.inermis* as ink was declared a defense to the animal³⁹ and so the animal 'armed' but the species name of the animal tends to mean "unarmed"⁷⁵. The claim^{38 & 39} for the ink of *S.inermis* as if being produced for its defense¹²² had not been so. The original research work¹²² had been performed not with *S.inermis*, a cuttlefish, but a squid, *Sepioteuthis sepioidea* yet improperly cited with meddlesome paraphrasing³⁸ and spineless plagiarism³⁹.

Significance

Proper sharing of organized knowledge¹²³ is demanded by any field of research to flourish, as research is faithfully based on previous reports; but the quality of the information especially accumulated through spectral reports about *S.inermis*^{38 & 39} duplicately phishing with little statistical significance^{38 & 39}. Statistical significance is required to discuss more significant results toward a scientific conclusion^{74 & 124}.

III. Conclusion

If properly extracted with methods involving harmless solvents and significantly reported with required finesse, *S.inermis* would grow to be one of the best research organisms.

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