



**Accession Number: - ZOO114**

**Scientific Name: *Dussumieria acuta***

**Family: Dussumieriidae**

**Common Name: Rainbow sardine**

**Physical Characteristics:**

The colour of the rainbow sardine is iridescent blue with a shiny gold or brass line below, which quickly fades after death; the hind margin of the tail is broadly dark. The fish has a W-shaped pelvic scute, an evenly tapering isthmus, and more anal fin rays. There are 14 to 18 anal soft rays. The maximum length recorded is 20 cm.

**Geographical Distribution:**

It is found in the Indian Ocean and adjacent waters, ranging from the eastern coast of Africa to the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the eastern Indian Ocean.

**Economic Importance:**

It is an important species both economically and ecologically, supporting fisheries and livelihoods in coastal communities while also playing a key role in marine ecosystems as a forage fish. However, like many other small pelagic species, sardines may face challenges due to overfishing, habitat degradation, and environmental changes.

