

Rare occurrence of blunthorn lobster *Palinustus waguensis* Kubo, 1963 from the southwest coast of India

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On 12th September, 2013 three specimens of the rare deep-sea blunt horn lobsters were landed in the multiday trawlers operating at a depth of 150-250 m,

off Sakthikulangara along the southwest coast of India. These three specimens consisted of two males and a single female. The specimens were in good condition

but did not depict the characteristic reddish colour (Fig. 1). In general these lobsters are distributed from shallow to deep waters from 0 to 180 m depth range. The ratio of carapace length to total length of *P. waguensis* was 0.44 and 0.39 for male and 0.438 for female specimens while this ratio was found to be slightly lower (0.32) in the records of Chennai. This is the first report of the occurrence of *P. waguensis* after a long gap of 45 years after the reports of George (1965) from Calicut along the southwest coast of India which was misidentified as *P. mossambicus*.

