

A rare occurrence of Blackfringe bigeye *Pristigenys refulgens* (Valenciennes, 1862), off Malabar coast

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The family Priacanthidae commonly inhabit rocky areas and reefs, although a few are known to inhabit open waters. Priacanthids are typically colored bright red, but some have patterns in silver, dusky brown, or black. They have unusually large eyes, suited to their habitat in deeper waters. *Pristigenys* is one of the genera in Priacanthidae in family and comprises of 3 species.



Fig. 1. Blackfringe bigeye *Pristigenys refulgens* landed at Kozhikode

On 15th October, 2013, one male *Pristigenys refulgens* specimen measuring 254 mm in total length and weighing 437 g (Fig.1) was caught by a trawler at a depth of 120-140 m off Kozhikode (11° 14.600 N 74° 56.424 E). Morphological characters of the species were recorded.

Morphometric characters of *Pristigenys refulgens* landed at Kozhikode

| Morphometric characters | Measurement (mm) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Total length | 254 |
| Standard length | 207 |
| Head length | 92 |
| Body depth | 101 |
| Pre-orbital length | 36 |
| Post-orbital length | 22 |
| Eye diameter | 34 |
| Pre-dorsal length | 84 |
| Dorsal fin base length | 103 |

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|--------------------------|-----|-------------------|----|
| Pectoral fin base length | 16 | Pre-pelvic length | 75 |
| Anal fin base length | 42 | Upper jaw length | 37 |
| Pelvic fin base length | 40 | Lower jaw length | 35 |
| Pre-anal length | 141 | Snout length | 28 |
