Tunas are commercially important food fishes exploited from all the world oceans. Of the 9 species contributing to the Indian tuna fisheries, yellowfin and bigeye tuna grow to big sizes, and with superior meat quality have high export demand. Identification of these tuna species are comparatively easier in fresh condition than the iced or frozen condition due to discolouration, fin and skin damage during handling and storage process. In such cases certain internal characteristics such as length of air bladder, liver shape and striation are used. Misidentification of yellowfin and bigeye tunas occurs in several cases. The present study is based on field observations at Cochin Fisheries Harbour and uses an easy field identification key for yellowfin and bigeye tuna based on external characteristics developed by Itano (2005) and IOTC (2013). Bigeye tuna are landed stray numbers along with yellowfin tunas, at Cochin Fisheries Harbour. Due to lack of proper identification in the field, bigeye tunas are sometimes misidentified and included along with yellowfin tuna catch, leading to erroneous estimates of species-wise catch volumes in the tuna fishery. A large sized bigeye tuna measuring 149 cm fork length (FL) and weighing 66 kg caught by Hook and line was observed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour on 16th April 2013 (Fig.1). All the morphometric measurements were taken and compared with yellowfin tuna of same fork length. The main characters (in % of FL) that distinguished it from yellowfin tuna was the Head length (28.2% versus 23.2%), Eye diameter (3.9% versus 3%), Pectoral fin length (25 % versus 23%), 2nd Dorsal fin height (15% versus 27%) and Anal fin height (15% versus 31%). The tissue sample which was DNA barcoded was confirmed as bigeye tuna and submitted in GenBank with accession number KF541748.1. Properly distinguished yellowfin and bigeye tuna catch will improve the catch statistics reporting.

### 1. Body morphology

#### Yellowfin tuna
- Body elongate with comparatively long tail
- Body outline flat towards posterior region

#### Bigeye tuna
- Body deep, rounded with short tail
- Body outline rounded, forms a smooth dorsal and ventral arc between snout and caudal peduncle

**Fig. 1.** Bigeye tuna landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour
2. Head and eye morphology

- Shorter head length and smaller eye diameter compared to bigeye tuna of same fork length
- Greater head length and eye diameter

3. Pectoral fin length

- Short and reaching before or up to the second dorsal fin origin (in adults)
- Long and reaching beyond second dorsal fin origin in adults

4. Second dorsal and anal fin length

- Second dorsal and anal fin greatly elongated in adults
- Second dorsal and anal fin short
First record of the sclerectinian coral *Echinopora lamellosa* from Minicoy, Lakshadweep

Miriam Paul Sreeram¹, S. Jasmin², L. Ranjith³, K. S. Shobana¹, S. Ramkumar⁴ and Jose Kingsley²

¹ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi
²Vizhinjam Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Vizhinjam
³Tuticorin Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Thoothukudi
⁴Mumbai Research Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mumbai

The sclerectinian coral *Echinopora lamellosa* (Esper, 1795) has been recorded from the Minicoy lagoon (8°18'10.7"N; 73°00'58.3"E) during an underwater survey on 3rd December 2015. This is a new record for the coral fauna of Minicoy island, Lakshadweep. The genera *Echinopora* and *Montipora* were considered to be absent from the coral fauna of Minicoy by earlier workers (Venkataraman and Ch. Stayanarayana, 2012 *Coral Identification Manual*. Zoological Survey of India,

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Caudal fin fork shape</th>
<th>6. Finlet colouration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Central portion of caudal fin fork region forms V&quot; or &quot;M&quot; notch</td>
<td>• Yellowish colour with distinct and thick black margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Caudal fin fork shape" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Finlet colouration" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Caudal fin fork shape</th>
<th>6. Finlet colouration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Central portion of caudal fin fork region forms a flat or slightly crescent shaped area</td>
<td>• Bright yellow with thin black margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Caudal fin fork shape" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Finlet colouration" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>