

# A brief note on the ribbonfish *Tentoriceps cristatus* from the southwest coast of India

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*Tentoriceps cristatus* (Klunzinger, 1884) commonly called as crested hair tail is a monotypic genus of cutlassfish family Trichiuridae. During the experimental fishery survey conducted by *FV Silver pompano* on 28 September 2016, specimens were obtained in the trawl net operated off Alappuzha (09° 21'N, 75° 56'E and 09° 21'N, 76° 18' E) at a depth of 50- 60m along with other fishes and crustaceans. Length and weight of the specimens ranged between 57.1 - 73.1 cm and 84.4 - 142 g respectively. The distinguishing morphological characteristics included an elongate body silvery in colour, profile of head convex, front teeth without barbs, pectoral fins short, not reaching the lateral line and pelvic fin represented by a pair of scalelike structures



Fig. 1. *Tentoriceps cristatus*

inserted below 9-12<sup>th</sup> dorsal fin ray. Biological analysis revealed 87% were male. 13% were female with mature (Stage V) gonads. The egg diameter ranged from 0.3 - 0.9 mm. Most of the fishes had empty stomachs (97%) or half full stomach with semi digested fish. Voucher specimen (GB 31.153.9.5) was deposited in the National Designated Repository (NDR) of ICAR- CMFRI, Kochi. This is the first report of the species from the south-west coast of India.