

# Rare occurrence of hairtail blenny

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During an experimental fishery and oceanography survey conducted at 40 m depth off Ratnagiri, a single specimen of hairtail blenny, *Xiphasia setifer* Swainson, 1839 (345 mm TL, 15 g) was collected on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This demersal, with an eel like body is marine gobiid fish (family blennidae), found in burrows along soft-mud bottom habitats in coastal waters. The species is very rarely encountered in fishery and hence meristic and morphometric counts were taken (Table 1, Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Hairtail blenny, *Xiphasia setifer* (345 mm TL)

Table 1. The morphometrics of *Xiphasia setifer*

Meristic counts	Numbers
Dorsal fin spine	12
Dorsal fin rays	112
Pectoral fin ray	13
Anal fin spine	2
Anal fin ray	104
Upper jaw teeth count	25
Lower jaw teeth count	28
Morphometric	Length (mm)
Total Length	345
Head length	24
Pectoral fin length	14
Pre-orbital length	6
Eye diameter	6
Post orbital length	12