

# Record size Gizzard Shad and Titan Cardinalfish landed

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*Nematalosa nasus* (Bloch, 1795) a small pelagic fish and locally known as 'Kundadi Mathi' (Malayalam). are mainly caught in ring seines, gill nets and occasionally found in pelagic trawl and shore seine landings of Malabar region. During a field visit on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2018, four specimens of unusually large *N. nasus* were procured from the gill net landings at Chaliyam fish landing centre, Kozhikode. The specimens measured from 230 mm to the largest 280 mm in total length (TL) & weighed 127 g to 248 g (Fig. 1 & 2). Three out of four were females (252 mm, 263 mm & 280 mm TL) with late matured to partially spent stage and a single male measured 230 mm TL was at late mature stage and weighed 127 g to 248 g each. The maximum TL reported for *N. nasus* reported in FishBase is 255 mm (Froese & Pauly, 2018. *FishBase*, version (06/2018). In India the largest record of *N. nasus* reported from the East coast was 252 mm TL caught

in Chilka Lagoon, Odisha, (Panda *et al.*, 2016. *J. Appl. Ichthyol.*, 32 (6): 1286-1289) and on the West coast was 241 mm TL landed at Fort Kochi, Kerala (Roul *et al.*, 2017. *Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv.*, 231: 27-28.) Other morphometric measurements of the largest specimen (280 mm TL) were as follows: Head length, 54 mm; Snout to insertion of pectoral fin, 52 mm; Snout to insertion of pelvic fin, 95 mm; Snout to insertion of dorsal fin, 98 mm; Snout to insertion of anal fin, 151 mm; Maximum body depth, 91 mm; Inter-orbital width, 18 mm; Standard length, 212 mm and Fork length, 230 mm.

The Indo-Pacific genus *Holapogon* universally known as titan cardinalfish is represented by a single species *Holapogon maximus* (Boulenger, 1888) which are purely marine, mostly found in 38 to 100 m depths. In recent years particularly during post monsoon

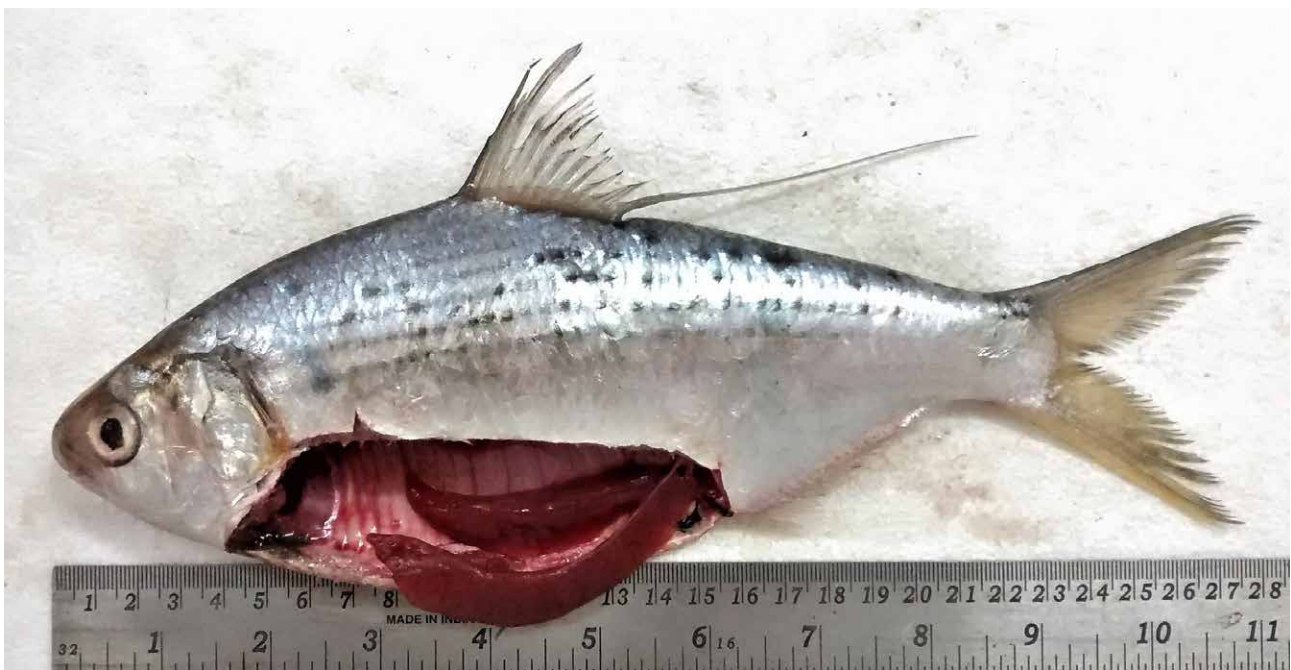


Fig. 1. *Nematalosa nasus* (Female, 280 mm TL, with partially spent gonads)



Fig. 2. *Nematalosa nasus* (Male, 230 mm TL, with mature gonads)

months, specimens of various sizes are frequently encountered in the multiday trawl catches in Kerala. During a regular field visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, an unusually large specimen of *H. maximus* was collected from the multiday trawl landings at Puthiyappa Fisheries Harbour, Kozhikode, Kerala. The specimen measured

273 mm total length (TL) and weighed 258.5 g (Fig. 3) and was deposited to the Marine Biodiversity Museum of Calicut Research Centre of ICAR-CMFRI. The largest *H. maximus* so far recorded from its distribution is 250 mm TL (Froese and Pauly, 2018, <http://www.fishbase.org>).



Fig. 3. *Holapogon maximus* (273 mm TL)