

New distributional record of spiny lobster *Panulirus longipes longipes*

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Among the known species of spiny lobsters in India, *Panulirus longipes longipes* is striking due to its colorful appearance. Globally, fishery of this species is of low volume distributed along eastern Africa to Thailand, Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia and India. Purely marine inhabiting up to a depth of 130 m it is mostly found within 18 m depth along shallow coral reefs or rocky sea bottom. Live lobsters of this species occasionally exported from the Philippines and Indonesia. On 15 June 2020, during the visit to a live lobster holding center functioning

at Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala, one male specimen of *P. longipes longipes* having 158 mm length and 150 g weight was noticed along with *P. homarus* stock. Upon enquiry, it was understood that the lobster was brought by one of the fishermen operating bottom set gill nets in the adjacent coastal waters where they regularly fished within 18 m depth. This live specimen was acclimatized for 1 day in a syntax tank filled with filtered sea water, provided with aeration and was subsequently transferred into one of the display glass tanks placed in the Marine Research Aquarium. In India, the concept of using lobsters as ornamentals in Marine Aquariums and in the ornamental fish trade sector are not quite popular. Calado *et al.* (2003), enlisted seven species of tropical Palinurid lobsters traded in marine aquarium industry wherein average price of one of its counterpart, the painted spiny lobster *P. versicolor* reported as ₹2647 per specimen.



References

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