

## Deformity in *Maculabatis gerrardi*

Worldwide, diverse morphological deformities have been reported in elasmobranchs of which most are from captive sharks and a few

from free-swimming specimens. On 10 March 2021 a deformed juvenile ray (Disk Width 15 cm) caught in a hand trawl net operated

by the non-motorised boat at 2 km distance from the shore was landed in New Mahe fish landing centre, Puducherry. The species was identified as *Maculabatis gerrardi* due to the characteristic bands on the tail. The ray was found to have rostral deformity due to incomplete fusion of the right and left pectoral fins with the head resulting in a deep cleft between the head and pectoral fins. There was also deformity in the pectoral fin with deep splits in the posterior half of the pectoral fins.



Fig. 1. Deformity in *Maculabatis gerrardi*

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