

Slender Sunfish landed at Chinnapalam (Pamban), south-east coast of India



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The Slender Sunfish, *Ranzania laevis*, is a mola belonging to the family Molidae. It is the only member of the genus *Ranzania*, found globally in tropical and temperate seas. They are oceanic and found in depths ranging from 1 to 140m. The Slender Sunfish is the most elongate species of sunfish and the maximum reported size is 100.0 cm (Total Length). *R. laevis* is a distinctively shaped fish; they lack a true tail and instead have a clavus.

One specimen of *Ranzania laevis* measuring 550mm in total length was landed at Chinnapalam fish landing centre at Pamban, south-east coast of India on 11th November 2011. The fish was an incidental catch in *kalamkatti valai* (similar to gill net) which is operated in this locality and is a rare occurrence in this area. In fresh condition, the fish is silver coloured with dark grey above, brownish green on sides, with dark stripes. *R. laevis* is a harmless fish and the IUCN Red List Status is 'Not Evaluated'.