

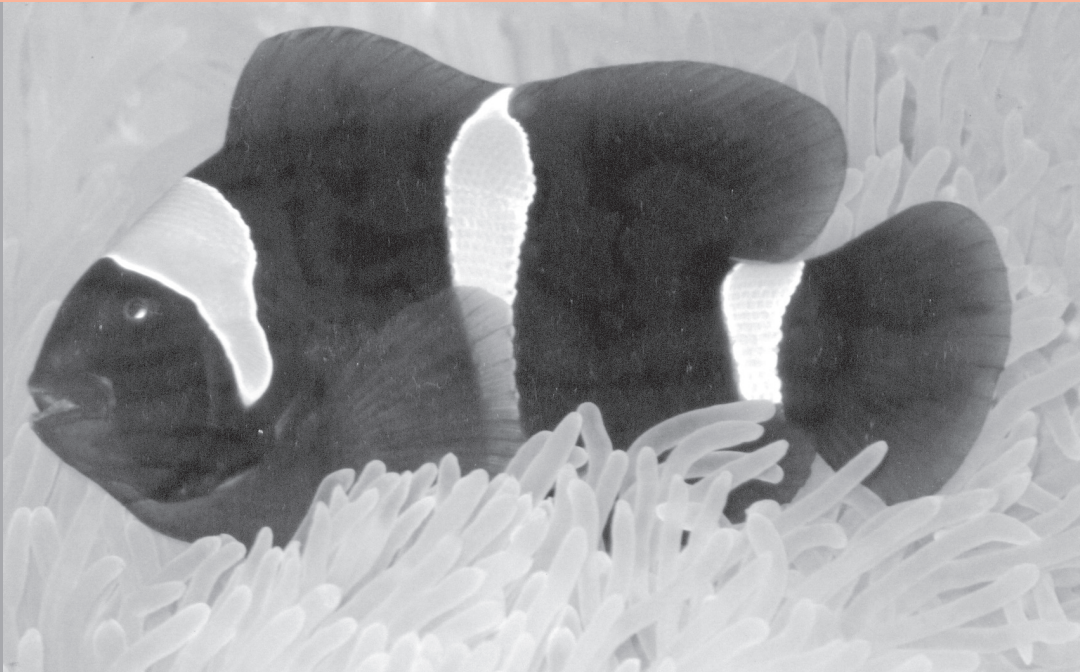
ISSN 0254-380 X



MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE

No. 190

October, November, December, 2006



TECHNICAL AND EXTENSION SERIES

CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN,INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

**On the first record of the grouper,
Epinephelus flavocaeruleus from Gulf of Mannar**

A single specimen of the reef-associated grouper, *Epinephelus flavocaeruleus* (Fig.1)

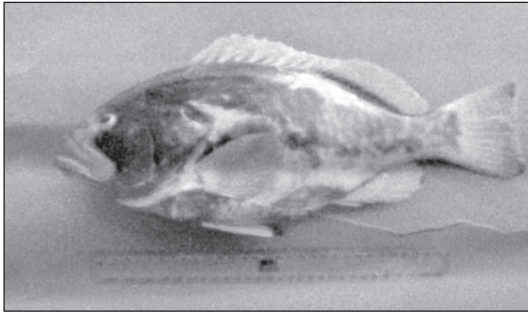


Fig. 1. *Epinephelus flavocaeruleus*

was landed at Keelakarai on 19-09-2006. It was caught in a trap kept at a depth of 8m near Appa island in Gulf of Mannar. The species belonging to the family Serranidae, named as Blue and Yellow grouper and locally known as Manjel Kaleva in Tamil. It is reported that adults have yellow fins while small juveniles have about half blue and half yellow fins.

The morphometric measurements of the

specimen are given below:

Total length	:	39 cm
Number of dorsal spines	:	11
Number of dorsal soft rays	:	17
Number of anal spines	:	3
Number of anal soft rays	:	8
Total weight	:	1.27 kg

It is distributed in Indian Ocean from Djibouti south to Algoa Bay, South Africa (34°S) and eastward to the Andaman Sea and Sabang island at the northwest tip of Sumatra, including Mozambique, Zanzibar, Kenya, Reunion, Mauritius, St. Brandon's Shoals, Seychelles, Lakshadweep islands, Chagos, Rodriguez, Sri Lanka, and Andaman islands. This species is also recorded from the west

coast of India, using underwater visual observations. However, it is not known from the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf.

It is reported that juveniles of the species inhabit shallow reefs, while, adults are found in deeper reefs. A depth range of 10-150 m is considered as the preferred environment for the species. *Epinephelus flavocaeruleus* was reported to grow upto a length of 90 cm and attain a weight of 15 kg. It is believed to feed on a variety of fishes, crabs, shrimps, spiny lobsters, squids and small octopus.

Reported by : Molly Varghese, C. Kasinathan and M. Seeni, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam