

# Marine Fisheries Information Service



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# Unusual occurrence of *Pempheris moluca* (moluccan sweeper) at Azhikode, Kerala

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**O**n 05.07.2008, five units of double nets (mini trawl) landed at Azhikode landing centre in Thrissur district, Kerala during 0600 - 1200 hrs. Two units landed *Pempheris moluca*, a rare variety available in the Kerala waters, along with prawns, croakers, silverbellies and anchovies. Out of 620 kg landed, 41 kg were *P. moluca* in the above two units. This came around 7% of the total landings of the two units.



Fig. 1. *Pempheris moluca*

These units were operated at a depth of 5 m. Average length of fishes was 10 cm and average weight was 20 g. Landing centre price of the species was Rs.15/- per kg.

*Pempheris moluca* comes under the family *Pempheridae* (sweepers). It generally lives among the coral reefs in rocky areas and feeds mainly on crustaceans.