

883 On a large sunfish landed near Mandapam

A sunfish, *Ranzania laevis* (Pennant) measuring 660 mm total length was caught on 5.3.1998 in shore-seine near Mandapam in Palk Bay. In fresh condition its colour was bluish with dark above and pale white below with small hexagonal plates and smooth skin. Six streaks of lighter colour bordered with dark descended from snout to gill slits and curved downwards to the ventral profile. The posterior three streaks were branched with dark spots. The lips were produced forward beyond the teeth closing as a vertical slit.



Fig. 1. The sun fish *Ranzania laevis*.

The specimen was a female weighing 8.2 kg. It was preserved and kept in the museum of the Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI. Detailed morphometric measurements (in mm) of the sunfish are given below.

Total length	660
Depth of body	330
Head length	240

cm7

Length of dorsal fin	170	Caudal fin length	65
Length of ventral fin	105	Length of mouth opening (slit)	45
Snout to pectoral fin	250	Snout length	100
Snout to dorsal fin	560	Diameter of eye	35
Snout to pelvic fin origin	510	Weight	8.2 kg
Snout to anal opening	400	Sex	Female
Base of pectoral fin	40		
Base of pelvic fin	58		
Height of body at caudal fin region	240		

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