

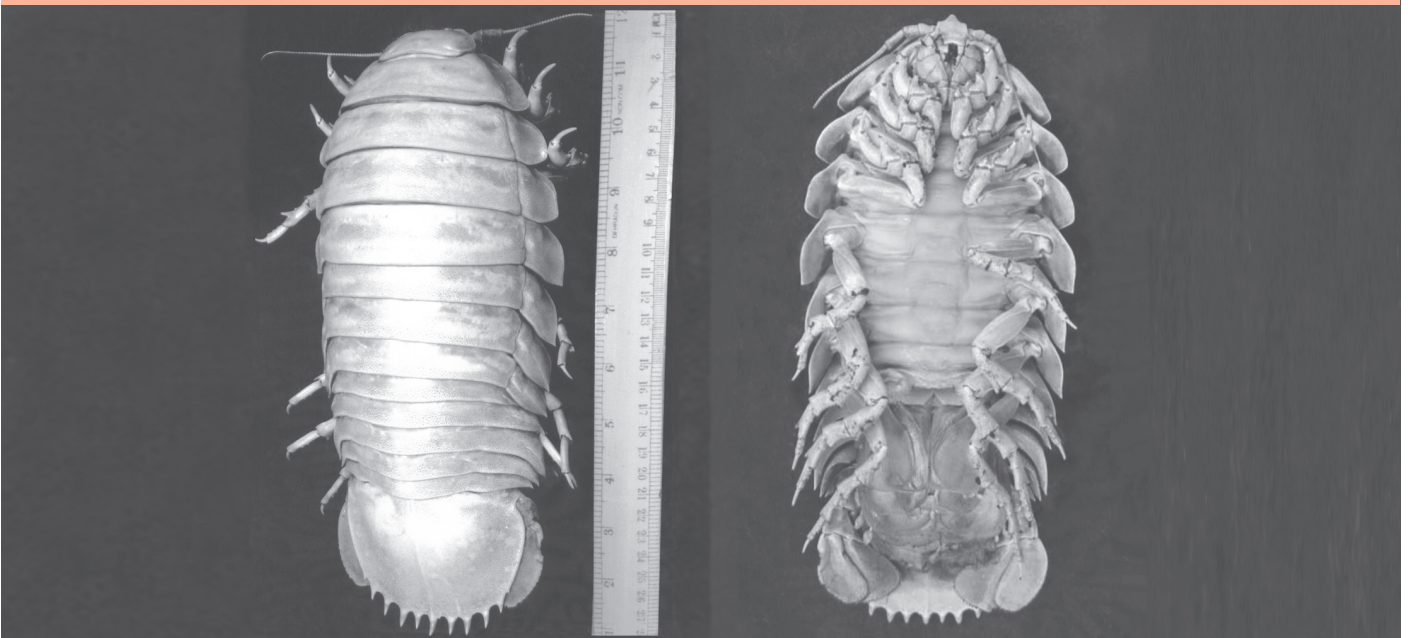
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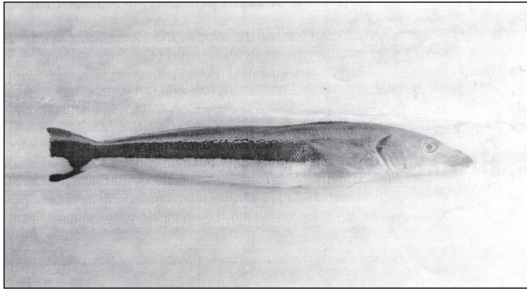
CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

On the first record of a rare marine ornamental fish from the Gulf of Mannar

A single specimen of reef associated sand tilefish belonging to the family Malacanthidae was landed at the Pamban landing centre of Gulf of Mannar on 21/02/2006. The specimen was identified as the sand tile fish, *Malacanthus latovittatus* (commonly known as Blue blanquillo/Blue



Malacanthus latovittatus

whiting). It is one of the commercially important rare ornamental fish. The fish (female) measured 33.8 cm in total length and weighed 292.5g. It is for the first time that this species is recorded from the Gulf of Mannar, though this species was recorded earlier from Lakshadweep and A & N Islands. On enquiry fishermen informed that the species was caught in a shrimp trawler off Pamban in Gulf of Mannar at a depth ranging from 10-50m.

Reported by: Venkatesan, C Kasinathan and A. Shanmugavelu, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam