

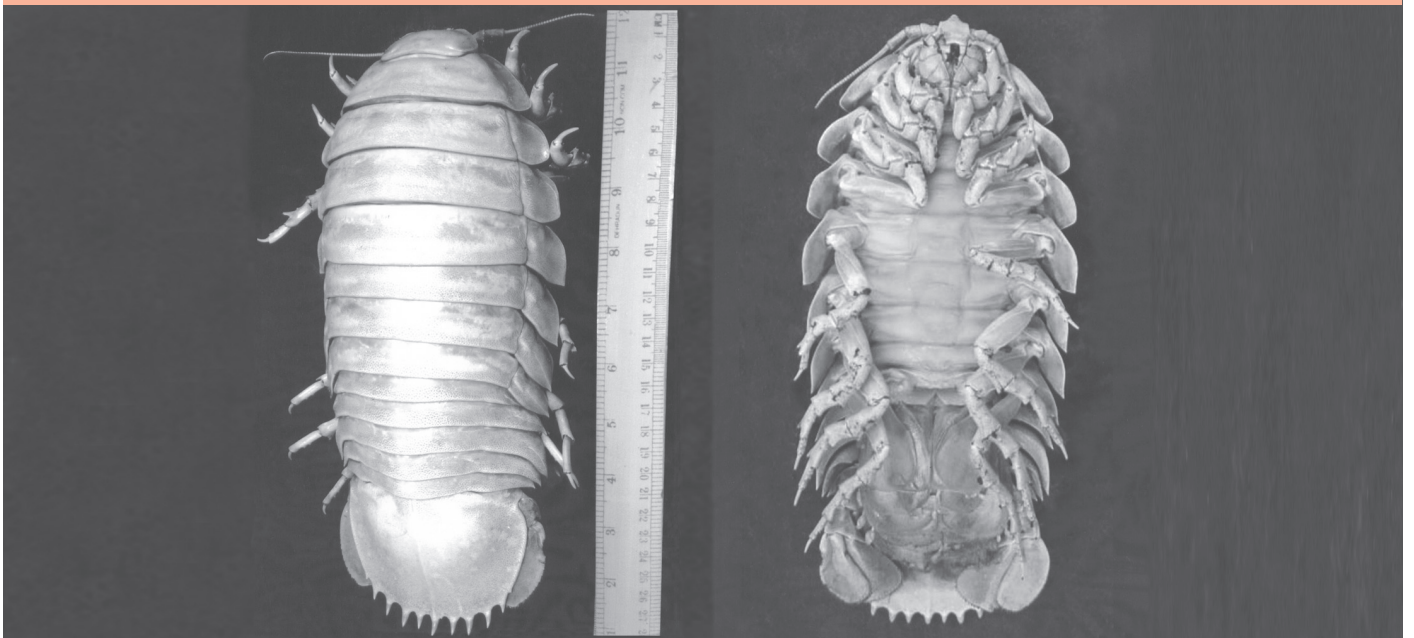
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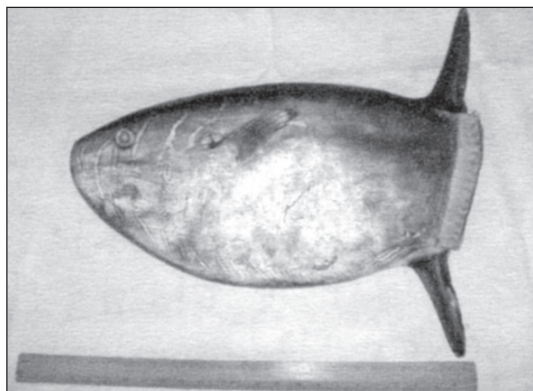
COCHIN, INDIA

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1163

A note on the landing of a slender sunfish near Rameswaram

A sunfish, *Ranzania laevis* (Pennant) (Slender mola), belonging to the family Molidae measuring 620mm in total length and 7kg. weight was caught in shore seine on 25/1/06 from Gulf of Mannar near Rameswaram. The landing of the same



The slender sunfish *Ranzania laevis*

from this region was reported earlier in 1998. These are the most colourful and rarest of the ocean sunfishes and they idle at the surface of the sea mostly. They have a smooth and thinner skin and a vertically oriented mouth with lips produced forward like a funnel. They lack a caudal fin and the rudder like structure at the caudal region is called clavus. The dorsal and anal fins are large and look like paddles. They are flapped synchronously from side to side and can propel the fish at a surprisingly good speed.

Reported by: Sandhya Sukumaran and C. Kasinathan, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp