

First record of two spot razor fish, *Xyrichtys bimaculatus* (Ruppell, 1828) at Mangalore, Karnataka

R. Saravanan, Prathibha Rohit and Uma S. Bhat
Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, Mangalore

Wrasses come under the family Labridae, with majority of the species having a maximum length of less than 20 cm. Common in shallow waters in a variety of habitats, including bare sand and rock, grass and algae-covered bottoms and coral reefs. they have a wide distribution and are known to occur in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific waters. Wrasses are active only during day time, burrowing in the sand and sleeping in rock or coral shelters at night. The genus *Xyrichtys* is observed and recorded for the first time at Mangalore.

Fishes of the genus *Xyrichtys* have the top of head and snout compressed into a knife like edge and the first two rays are often separated from the rest of the fin by a deep notch in the fin membrane or is completely detached. they have protrusible mouth,

outward jutting teeth with gaps between teeth, moderately large cycloid scales, dorsal fin with 8-15 spines (often 3) followed by 7-18 rays. Size, shape and colour vary, hence they are very popular as aquaria fish. Generally they change colour and sex with growth, from an initial phase of males and females, they change to an often brilliantly coloured terminal male phase. Most species are sand burrowers; carnivores on benthic invertebrates; also planktivores, and some small species are known to remove ectoparasites of larger fishes. the present specimen identified as *Xyrichtys bimaculatus* (Fig.1) was collected from the catch at Mangalore Fishing Harbour on 27th August 2010. It was observed as a stray specimen along with threadfin breams. The morphometric and meristic characteristics are given in Table 1.

Table1. Morphometric and meristic characteristics of *X. bimaculatus*

Morphometric/ meristic characteristics	Measurements (mm)/counts
Total length	139
Standard length	116
Head length	38.8
Snout length	7.07
Inter-orbital width	6.23
Eye diameter	8.34
Dorsal length	84.65
Pectoral length	28.64
Pelvic length	24.02
Caudal fin length	42.65
Body depth (maximum)	43.55
Dorsal fin count	XIV+19
Anal fin count	VI+7
Weight	31 g



Fig. 1. Two spot razor fish, *Xyrichtys bimaculatus* (Ruppell, 1828) landed at Mangalore, Karnataka

Xyrichtys bimaculatus has been misidentified and known by some of these synonyms *Hemipteronotus hypospilus* Schultz, 1960, *Hemiperonotus punctulatus* (Valenciennes, 1840), *Iniistius bimaculatus* (Ruppell, 1829), *Novacula punctulata* Valenciennes, 1840, *Xyrichtys hypospilus* (Schultz, 1960), *Xyrichtys punctulatus* (Valenciennes, 1840).

The collected specimen has been preserved in the Marine Museum of the Mangalore Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.