

First record of bandfish, *Acanthocepola limbata* (Valenciennes, 1835) from Malabar region

P. P. Manojkumar and P. P. Pavithran
Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI, Calicut

The family Cepolidae comprises of 23 species of fish in five genera, all of which are found in eastern Atlantic and wide spread in central Indo-Pacific. The species *Acanthocepola limbata* (Valenciennes, 1835) is a meso bathypelagic species distributed circumglobally. In the Indian waters, it has been recorded from Karwar (Kulkarni and Balasubramanian, 1978).

The fish reported here was observed in the trawl discards collected from Puthiappa on 16.8.2010 (Fig.1). The specimen was collected during trawling operations carried out between 11° 14'19" N and 74° 56'12" E off Tellichery at a depth of 160 m. The

specimen measured 268 mm in total length and weighed 84 g. Morphometric measurements of the specimen is given in Table 1.

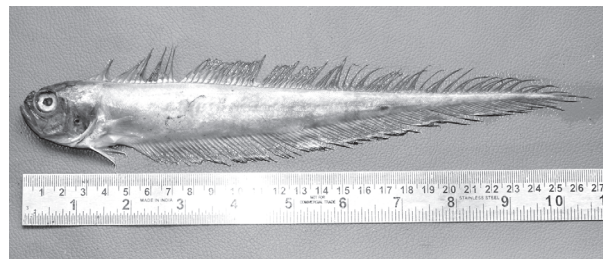


Fig. 1. Bandfish, *Acanthocepola limbata* landad at Puthiappa Fisheries Harbour

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Acanthocephala limbata* collected from Puthiappa

Parameters	Measurements (mm)
Total length	268
Standard length	249
Head length	35
Snout	9
Eye diameter (Same along both axes)	8
Eye (middle dark portion)	5
Maxillary length	15
Mandibular length	10
Snout to insertion dorsal	24
Length of dorsal	218
Snout to insertion pectoral	28
Length of pectoral	19
Snout to insertion pelvic	22
Length of pelvic	16
Snout to insertion anal	37
Length of anal	204
Length of caudal	18
Snout to vent	34
Snout to origin of lateral line	42
Gape	14
Depth of body in line with eye	22
Depth of body at dorsal insertion	29
Depth of body at pectoral insertion	27
Depth of body at pelvic insertion	28

Depth of body at anal insertion	26
Depth of body at mid-length	20
Depth of body at caudal insertion	10
Inter-orbital distance	7
Distance between eyes	13
Breadth of body at dorsal insertion	15
Breadth of body at mid-length	7
Width of gill opening	28

The specimen was identified to species level using the FAO fish identification sheets (Fischer and Bianchi, 1994). The body is elongate, laterally compressed and gradually tapering to caudal. Last soft ray of dorsal and anal fins connected to caudal fin by a membrane. Scales cycloid, small, present on head and opercle. Eyes red, large and protractile. Mouth large, oblique; upper jaw broad at end, without supramaxilla, and extending to below posterior margin of eye with triangular tongue. Mouth has a single row of slender, slightly curved teeth in jaws and median palatine teeth. Preopercle bluntly serrated. Gill openings wide and semicircular. A single long dorsal fin originates on head. Dorsal and anal fins join with the caudal. Colour of the body red with golden yellow bands on sides. A dark red blotch on dorsal between 9th and 14th rays.