

Observations on a deformed specimen of *Heniochus acuminatus* (Family Chaetodontidae) from Gulf of Mannar

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An abnormal specimen of the bannerfish, *Heniochus acuminatus* was observed from Pamban Therkuvady Fish Landing Centre during the last week of November, 2009.

It is understood that it was caught from the coral reef areas of Gulf of Mannar by trawlnet operated at around 40 m depth. Normally, in *Heniochus acuminatus*, only the fourth dorsal spine and attached membrane is greatly prolonged into a pennant-shaped appendage. But in this specimen, in addition to this, one more elongated spine with attached membrane is noticed adjacent to the former. The present specimen has a total length of 19.5 cm, and weighs 200 g. The length of elongated

fourth and fifth spines are 26 cm and 9.6 cm respectively.



Abnormal specimen of *Heniochus acuminatus*