

Largest goatfish, *Upeneus moluccensis* (Bleeker, 1855) caught off Visakhapatnam

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Goatfish constitute an important demersal fishery resource landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. They formed 14.4% of the trawl landings of the harbour and comprised of *Upeneus vittatus* (57.0%), *Upeneus sulphureus* (24.6%), *Upeneus moluccensis* (18%) and *Upeneus tragula* (0.4%). *Parupeneus heptacanthus* and *Parupeneus indicus* occur rarely in the fishery. During 2005 - 2009, the annual goatfish catch of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour was in the range of 2177 - 3463 t with an average catch of 2859 t. The annual average landings of *U. moluccensis* during 2005 -'09 was 515 t forming 18% of the total goatfish catch at the fishing harbour. They are mainly exploited by bottom trawlers along with marginal exploitation by both drift and bottom set gillnets.



Fig. 1. *Upeneus moluccensis*

During the last week of August and first week of September 2010, multiday trawling boats landed large sized gold band goatfish, *U. moluccensis* at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. The local name of the gold band goatfish is 'pasupugulivand'. A large goatfish ever caught at Visakhapatnam coast measured 211 mm in total length and weighed 121 g.

Table. 1. Morphometric measurements (mm) of the large sized goat fish *U. moluccensis* landed at Visakhapatnam

| Parameters | Measurements (mm) |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total length | 211 |
| Fork length | 196 |
| Standard length | 175 |
| Predorsal length | 78 |
| Preanal length | 116 |
| Prepelvic length | 60 |
| Prepectoral length | 58 |
| Preorbital length | 21 |
| Head length | 54 |
| Eye diameter | 13 |
| Caudal height | 35 |
| Maximum height of the body | 49 |
| Length of first dorsal fin base | 26 |
| Length of second dorsal fin base | 24 |
| Length of pelvic fin | 31 |
| Length of pectoral fin | 44 |
| Length of anal fin | 23 |
| Eye diameter | 13 |
| Wet weight | 121g |
| Sex and maturity stage | Female, VII a |

It was caught as trawl bycatch on 4th September, 2010. Earlier Vivekanandan *et al.* (2003) recorded the goatfish *U. moluccensis*, with a maximum length of 189 mm caught at Chennai coast. The maximum length recorded by Fishbase is 200 mm (Sommer *et al.*, 1996). The present specimen is larger than those reported earlier.