

# **A note on the slender sunfish, *Ranzania laevis* (Pennant, 1776) landed at Chinnapalam (Pamban), south-east coast of India**

N. Ramamurthy, K. Vinod and G. Gopakumar  
*Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam*

The slender sunfish, *Ranzania laevis* (Family: Molidae) is the only member of the genus *Ranzania*, found globally in tropical and temperate seas. They are oceanic and found in depths ranging from 1 to 140 m. The slender sunfish is the most elongate species of sunfish and the maximum reported size is 100 cm (total length). *R. laevis* lack a true tail and instead has a clavus.

One specimen of *R. laevis* measuring 550 mm in total length was landed at Chinnapalam fish landing

centre at Pamban, south-east coast of India on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The fish was an incidental catch in *kalamkatti valai* (gillnet) operated in this locality. In fresh condition, the fish is silver coloured with dark grey above, brownish green on sides. Six streaks of light colour with dark border, descend from snout to gill slits and curve downwards to the ventral profile. The posterior three streaks are branched. The lips are funnel-like forming a vertical slit when closed. The pectoral fins are elongated fitting into a shallow

concavity. The caudal fin is reduced to a leathery fold called clavus. The dorsal and anal fins are large. *R. laevis* has been earlier reported from Mandapam (Victor *et al.*, 1998) and from Rameswaram (Sandhya Sukumaran and Kasinathan, 2006). The morphometric details of *R. laevis* landed at Chinnapalam are given in the table. The IUCN Red List status of slender sunfish, *R. laevis* is “Not Evaluated” (NE) and it is reported to be harmless to humans.



Slender sunfish, *Ranzania laevis* landed at Chinnapalam (Pamban)

Morphometric features of the slender sunfish  
*Ranzania laevis*

Parameter	Measurements (mm)
Total length	550
Depth of trunk region of body	285
Mouth length	35
Dorsal fin length	177
Pectoral fin length	115
Pectoral fin width	44
Anal fin length	144
Caudal fin length	47
Length of outer margin of caudal fin	214
Snout to origin of eye	74
Snout to origin of pectoral fin	204
Distance from the terminal portion of eye to origin of pectoral fin	100
Snout to origin of dorsal fin	465
Snout to origin of caudal fin	507
Snout to origin of anal fin	430
Snout to origin of anus	375
Length of anus	38
Distance from the terminal portion of anus to origin of anal fin	28
Length of eye	31
Diameter of eye	28