

First time occurrence of the flathead sillago, *Sillaginopsis panijus* in commercial landings at Chennai

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Unusual landing of the flathead sillago *Sillaginopsis panijus* (Hamilton, 1822) was observed on 24th June 2010 at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai. About 30 kg of *S. panijus* in the size range 280-360 mm (length) and 120-325 g (weight) was landed by trawl nets caught at a depth of 60-80 m. This is the first report on *S. panijus* at Chennai in commercial landings. Among the sillaginidae family, the silver sillago *Sillago sihama* (Forsskal, 1775), locally called as “vellai kilangan” is the only species usually landed at Chennai. Morphologically, *S. panijus* differs from other sillaginid fishes in the presence of elongated trailing second dorsal spine.



Sillaginopsis panijus landed at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai

Morphometric measurements of *Sillaginopsis panijus* collected from Kasimedu Fishing Harbour, Chennai

Measurements	<i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i> (Female)	<i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i> (Male)
Total length (mm)	360	312
Standard length (mm)	305	280
Snout to dorsal (mm)	110	98
Anal soft rays	26	25
Snout to eye (mm)	38	35
Snout to head (mm)	90	77
Snout to pectoral (mm)	100	87
Snout to pelvic (mm)	108	90
Snout to anal (mm)	38	35
Length of dorsal 2 nd spine (mm)	162	152
Dorsal spines	11	11
Dorsal soft rays	27	26
Anal spines	2	2
Sex	Female	Male
Weight (g)	250	190