

Rare landing of the wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier, 1831) at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour, Andhra Pradesh

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Rare occurrence of the wahoo, *Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier, 1831) was observed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 14th February 2013 (Fig. 1a, b & c). The genus *Acanthocybium* is closely related to *Scomberomorus* and is represented by a single species, *A. solandri*. The seerfish group (*Scomberomorus* and *Acanthocybium* genus) contributes less than 2% to the total landings from the western Indian Ocean (FAO Area 51, FAO, 1994). Seerfishes contributed on an average 3.49% to the total marine fish landings of Andhra Pradesh during 2001 - 2011 and are fished by gillnets, boat seines, shore seines, hooks & line and trawl nets. The species composition observed during 1982 - 2012 in seer fish landings in India was: *S. commerson* 54%, *S. guttatus* 45%, *S. lineolatus* 0.7% and *A. solandri* 0.3%.

Wahoo is considered as a high quality food fish worldwide. The species is locally called as “pallapu konemu” in Andhra Pradesh. The length of *A. solandri* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour ranged from 120 to 143 cm with weight ranging from 8 to 16 kg and all the four fishes landed were caught by

hooks and lines operated from motorised craft at depths of 800 m. The present record is the highest from the east coast of India, both in terms of length and weight.

The body is elongate, fusiform and slightly laterally compressed. Mouth is large with strong teeth closely set in a single series, the teeth triangular, compressed and finely serrated; snout about as long as the rest of head. Gill rakers are absent. Possess two dorsal fins, the first with 25 spines and the second with one spine and rays, have 8 dorsal and anal finlets and possess 2 small flaps (interpelvic process) between pelvic fins and 2 smaller keels on each side of the caudal fin.

Unlike the three species of *Scomberomorus* which are primarily coastal, *A. solandri* is an oceanic species occurring offshore beyond the continental shelf. Wahoo is a highly migratory species and adapted for swimming in high-speed bursts and are amongst the fastest fishes known. A burst speed of 77 km h⁻¹ has been recorded for an 8 kg fish. A large percentage of *A. solandri* are landed by the troll

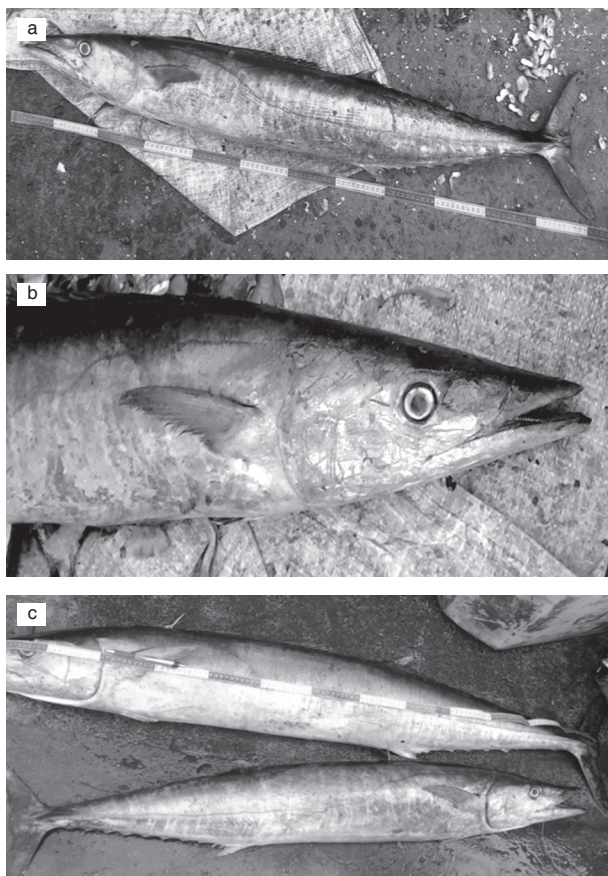


Fig. 1a, b & c. *Acanthocybium solandri* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

fishery in the Lakshadweep Islands. In Lakshadweep, the species is also occasionally caught during November-March by fishermen using No. 1 hooks, baited with mackerels, scads, flyingfish, barracuda, horse mackerel and squids.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of the smallest specimen of *Acanthocybium solandri* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 14th February 2013

Total length	120.0 cm
Fork length	117.0 cm
Standard length	111.0 cm
Height of the body	23.0 cm
Operculum length	28.0 cm
Eye diameter	3.4 cm
Head length	23.0 cm
Length of first dorsal fin	34.4 cm
Length of second dorsal fin	16.5 cm
Length of pelvic fin	13.0 cm
Length of pectoral fin	19.0 cm
No. of dorsal finlets	8 finlets
No. of ventral finlets	8 finlets
Length of anal fin	9.0 cm
Length of caudal fin	21.0 cm
Height of caudal fin	18.5 cm
First dorsal spines	XXVI spines
Second dorsal spines, rays	I spine, 15 rays
Anal spines, rays	III spines, 10 rays
Pectoral fin spines, rays	II spines, 22 rays
Pelvic fin spine, rays	I spine, 5 rays
Caudal fin Keel	2 smaller keels
Interpelvic process (between pelvic fins)	2 small flaps
Total weight	8.0 kg
Sex	Male
Stage	II
Stomach	Empty