

Landing of giant sized Indian threadfin, *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Shaw 1804) at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour, Andhra Pradesh

V. Uma Mahesh, M. V. Hanumantha Rao, M. Satish Kumar, P. Suresh Kumar

Shubhadeep Ghosh and G. Maheswarudu

Regional Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam

Polynemids form less than 1% of total marine landings in India. Threadfins are highly esteemed as food fish and contribute about 0.41% towards the total marine fish landings in Andhra Pradesh (2001-2010) and are fished by gillnets, shore seines,

ring seines and trawl nets. A giant sized Indian threadfin, *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Shaw, 1804) was landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 11th December 2012 (Fig. 1a & b). Polynemids are locally called as “maga”. *L. indicum* measured 91cm

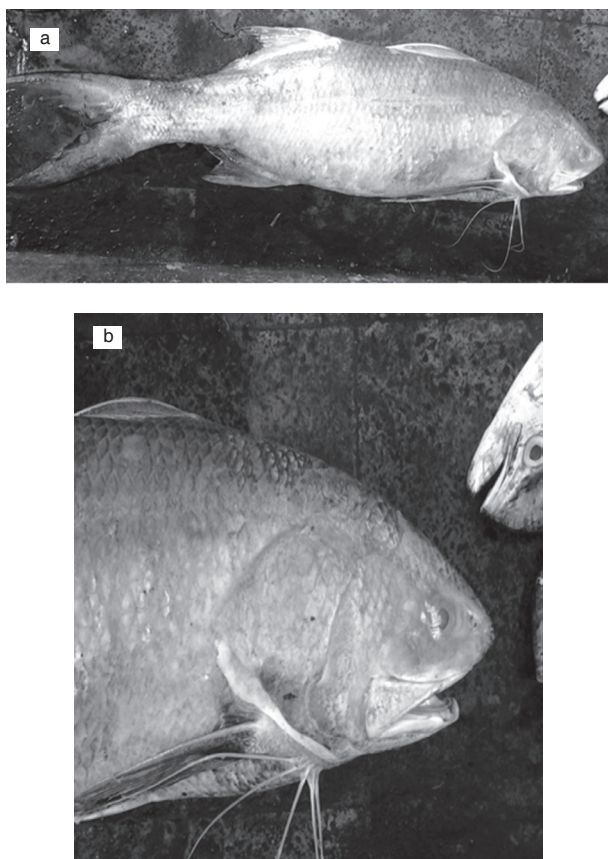


Fig. 1a & b. *Leptomelanosoma indicum* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

in total length and weighed 7 kg (Table 1) and was caught by mechanised trawler operated at depth of 70 m. The present record is the highest (both in length and weight) so far recorded from east coast of India.

Previous records of *L. indicum* landed at Mumbai (Karbhari *et al.*, 1988) were 170 cm in total length and 50.08 kg in weight. Mohamed ((1955) observed fish of 142.3 cm in length and 27 kg in weight of this species. According to Kagwade (1968), length of *L. indicum* ranged from 84 to 110 cm with dominant size group at 91 – 100 cm.

Species description

The body is elongate and fusiform, the mouth small and inferior; a pointed snout projects far ahead. The jaws and palate possessed bands of villiform teeth, posterior margin of maxilla reaching to level of posterior margin of adipose eyelid. Spinous and soft dorsal fins widely separated, all pectoral-fin rays, except uppermost 2 unbranched. The most distinguishing feature of polynemids is that the pectoral fins have two distinct sections, the lower of

which consists of five thread-like independent rays, uppermost not reaching to posterior tip of pectoral fin. Swim bladder present. Scales weakly ctenoid, extending onto head; scales covering most of dorsal, pectoral, anal and caudal fins; lateral line extending onto posterior margin of caudal fin, tri-segmental pterygiophores absent. Tail fins large and deeply

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Leptomelanosoma indicum* landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour

Morphometric/meristic characteristics	Measurement (cm)
Total length	91.0
Fork length	79.0
Standard length	72.5
Height of the body	25.7
Operculum length	21.0
Eye diameter	3.0
Head length	17.5
Length of first dorsal fin	17.0
Length of second dorsal fin	18.5
Length of pelvic fin	13.0
Length of pectoral fin	19.0
Length of pectoral filaments	17.5 (longest)
1 st filament to 5 th filament length	14.0 - 17.5
Length of anal fin	12.0
Length of caudal fin	21.0
Height of caudal fin	18.5
First dorsal spines	VIII spinesI
Second dorsal spines - rays	spine – 14 rays
Anal spines - rays	III spines – 12 rays
Pectoral fin rays	14 rays (all rays unbranched)
Pectoral filaments	5 pairs (fifth filament longest)
Pelvic fin spine - rays	I spine – 5 rays
Lateral line scales	74
Total weight	7.0 kg
Sex	Female
Maturity stage	VI – A

forked; indicating speed and agility. Head and upper sides of trunk tinged slightly blackish brown, snout and abdominal regions blackish; membranes of first and second dorsal fins and caudal fin blackish, distal

part of these fins black; pectoral fin membrane deep black; origin of pectoral filaments dusky yellowish, grading to blackish posteriorly; pelvic-fin origin dusky yellowish and other parts dusky white.