

Occurrence of slender threadfin bream, *Nemipterus zysron* (Bleeker, 1856) (Perciformes: Nemipteridae), from Tuticorin Coast

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On 26th March, 2013 a single specimen of slender threadfin bream, *Nemipterus zysron* (Bleeker, 1856) with total length 247.4 mm was collected from Punnakayal landing centre. This specimen was caught by the gill net operated between 20 and 50 m depth at a distance of 25 to 40 nautical miles from the shore. Occurrence of *N. zysron* is reported for the first time from the Tuticorin coast. Nemipteridae family has 5 genus and 65 species. In contrast with other *Nemipterus* species, *N. zysron* was easily identified in the field by the presence of yellow stripes in front of eye through nostrils and from upper lip to beneath the eye. Body slender and elongated, body depth 3.84 times SL; snout length equal to diameter of eye; diameter of eye 3.14 times head length; lower margin of eye just above a line from tip of snout to upper base of pectoral fin; inter-orbital width 1.59 times of eye;

pectoral and pelvic fins reaching up to anus; pectoral fins 1.12 times of head length, pelvic fins 1.28 times of head length; caudal fin forked, upper lobe produced into a short filament; gill rakers 13. Other diagnostic features observed were the presence of a single dorsal fin with ten spines and ten rays, anal fin with three spines and seven rays. Upper lobe of caudal fin produced into a long yellow trailing filament. Body colour is reddish in the upper part, silvery below; sides below lateral line with distinct yellow stripes along the middle of each scale row. Head pinkish and dorsal fins pale yellow with a bright yellow margin. Pelvic fins hyaline with a yellow auxiliary area and auxiliary scale. Caudal fin pinkish, upper and lower lobes light yellowish, filament yellow.

Table: 1 Morphometric characters of *Nemipterus zysron*

Characters	mm
Total length	244.70
Fork length	210.22
Standard length	180.13
Body depth	46.87
Body width	28.02
Pectoral length	47.84
Pelvic length	42.05
Head length	53.92
Eye diameter	17.13
Orbit diameter	8.43
Snout length	16.47
Interorbital depth	10.76
Predorsal length	59.68
Prepectoral length	57.40
Prepelvic length	60.98
Preanal length	113.22
Preanus length	102.45
Distance between pelvic and anal fin	53.28
Caudal peduncle length	33.55
Caudal Peduncle width	19.24



Nemipterus zysron caught off Tuticorin coast, Gulf of Mannar: left side view (A) and close view of head (B).