

First record of *Pomadasys furcatus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) from Saurashtra coast of Gujarat

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A single specimen of the Banded grunt, *Pomadasys furcatus* (Schneider, 1801) belonging to the family Haemulidae was collected at Bhidiya near Veraval landing centre on 22nd December, 2012. The fish was caught by a single day boat locally called as “Hodi” operated at a depth of 10-20 m near Veraval. The fish was 33.3 cm long and weighed 608 g. It is mainly a tropical reef associated fish distributed in Indo-west Pacific region. Earlier the fish has been reported from Andaman and Nicobar islands of India. Though known to be distributed in the Western Indian Ocean, hitherto it has not been reported from Gujarat.

The species was identified following the description given in Fish base (Froese and Pauly,

2000) and FAO (Fischer and Bianchi, 1984). It has an elongated and compressed body. Dorsal profile of



Fig. 1. *Pomadasys furcatus* (Schneider, 1801)

the head is convex with moderately large eyes. Mouth is small with teeth in jaws in villiform bands. The maxilla reaches up to hind nostril or eye. There are two pores and a median pit on chin. The detailed morphometric and meristic characters of the specimen has been mentioned in Table.1. Colour of the specimen is silvery white with six longitudinal dark parallel bands, the three upper ones from nape to base of soft anal fin, the fourth from upper part of eye to upper caudal rays and united with that of the other side on caudal peduncle. The fifth one extends from hind border of eye to middle of caudal fin base and the sixth one originates below eye and extends to lower caudal rays through axil of pectoral fin. With exception of the first and last band, the bands are more or less double in their anterior part. Caudal, anal and distal part of ventral fins is dark violet in colour. Pectoral fins are dusky in colour. Scales are ctenoid. The colour became reddish brown after preservation in 5% formalin. The specimen has been kept in the museum of Veraval Regional Centre of CMFRI for future reference.

Table1. Morphometric measurements of *P. furcatus*

Parameters	Measurement (cm)
Total length	33.3
Standard length	27
Body depth	13
Head length	7
Snout length	4

Eye diameter	1.5
Inter orbital	2.8
Length of the upper jaw	5.5
Length of the lower jaw	4.7
Snout to insertion of dorsal fin	11.5
Height of the dorsal fin	3.8
Base of the dorsal fin	14.5
Snout to insertion of pectoral fin	9
Length of pectoral fin	10
Base of the pectoral fin	1.6
Snout to insertion of pelvic fin	9.7
Length of pelvic fin	6.5
Base of pelvic fin	1.5
Snout to insertion of anal fin	20
Length of anal fin	4.5
Base of anal fin	4
Snout to origin of vent	18.5
Snout to insertion of caudal fin	26.8
Caudal fin length	6
Caudal peduncle depth	3.5
Dorsal fin spine and rays	XII+15
Pectoral fin spine and rays	0+15
Pelvic fin spine and rays	I+5
Anal fin spine and rays	III+8
Lateral line scales	59
Scale row between lateral line and dorsal fin origin	9