

## First report on *Sillaginopsis panijus* (Hamilton, 1822) off Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh

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A flathead sillago, *Sillaginopsis panijus* was reported for the first time in the landings of Visakhapatnam fishing harbour. A single specimen measuring 372 mm in length weighed 348 g. The fish was caught with hook and line targeting seer fishes on 18-06-2013 at a depth of 30-40 m from a motorized craft. Biological investigations revealed that it is a mature female. Ovaries were bright orange in colour and voluminous when compared to body size and weighed 24 g and measured 68 mm in length. The fecundity was estimated at 8, 88,000 ova. Ova diameter ranged from 210-350



Fig. 1. *Sillaginopsis panijus*

microns. Trace amounts (0.5 g) of digested matter was found in the stomach. Morphometric and meristic measurements were taken and given below.

Morphometric measurements	Length (mm)	Meristic measurements	Number
Total length(TL)	372	First dorsal fin spines	10
Standard length (SL)	330	Second dorsal fin spines	1
Body depth at first dorsal origin	82	Second dorsal fin rays	27
Body depth at anal fin origin	74	Anal fin spines	2
Maximum Body Depth	86	Anal fin rays	26
Depth at caudal peduncle	38	Pectoral fin rays	20
Head length	100	Pelvic fin spines	1
Snout length	34	Pelvic fin rays	6
Eye Diameter	0.9	Lateral line scales	92
Inter-orbital width	22		
Upper jaw length	28		
Tip of snout to origin of I dorsal fin	106		
Tip of snout to origin of II dorsal fin	156		
Tip of snout to origin of pectoral fin	104		
Tip of snout to origin of pelvic fin	114		
Tip of snout to origin of anal fin	190		
Length of I dorsal fin base	40		
Length of II dorsal fin base	142		
Distance between I and II dorsal fin bases	10		
length of anal fin base	70		
Pectoral fin length	38		
Pelvic fin length	118		
Distance between pelvic and anal fin bases	83		
Second spine of first dorsal fin	185		