

Large sized moustached *Thryssa*, *Thryssa mystax* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) recorded from Cochin coast in Kerala

Molly Varghese, Thomas, V.J., Sreekumar, K.M., Smruthu Mohan and Stegy Joseph
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin

Two large sized specimens of *Thryssa mystax* (Family: Engraulidae) were caught in *Chooda valai* and landed at Chellanam fish landing centre on 20th July 2013. The specimens measured 24.8 cm (Fig. 1) and 24 cm in total length and weighed 100 g and 80 g respectively. These sizes of this species are recorded for the first time in the world. The morphometric measurements of the specimens are given in Table 1.



Fig. 1. *Thryssa mystax*

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (in mm) of *Thryssa mystax*

Morphometric characters	Specimen 1	Specimen 2
Total length	248	240
Fork length	224	217
Standard length	208	202
Pre anal length	114	108
Pre dorsal length	102	89
Pre pectoral length	38	35
Body depth	56	53
Head length	38	37
Eye diameter	9	7
Pre orbital length	6	6

Generally small sized individuals of the species are landed. The normal size range of *T. mystax* is 8-16 cm. According to FishBase, the maximum standard length recorded is 15.5 cm, whereas the present specimens have standard lengths of 20.8 cm and 20.2 cm. The images given in the FishBase shows that the maximum recorded total length of the species is 21 cm in the photo uploaded on 26.02.2013 from Karachi, Pakistan. The total lengths of the present specimens are 24.8 cm and 24 cm which are much higher than that specimen also.