

Report of two tuskfishes from Tamil Nadu coast

Wrasses are reef associated fishes and wrasses under genus *Choerodon* Bleeker 1847 are commonly called as tuskfishes due to peculiar canine teeth in front of mouth. Four tuskfishes are reported from India viz., Orange-dotted tuskfish *Choerodon anchorago* (Bloch, 1791), Robust tuskfish, *Choerodon robustus* Günther, 1862, Bluetooth Tuskfish, *Choerodon typus* (Bleeker 1856), and Purple eyebrowed tuskfish *Choerodon zamboangae* (Seale

& Bean 1907). Present report is on two rarely observed tuskfishes from Tamil Nadu coast recorded during 2021-2023 period.

On 12th March 2022, seven specimens of *Choerodon typus* (9-12 cm TL), were observed in the trawl bycatch landed at Chennai Fisheries Harbour (Kasimedu). This species is found in the Indo-West Pacific region, rare in the Indian Ocean region however beyond

the Malay Peninsula it is currently known only from Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Myanmar (Gomon, 2017). The species was first documented and photographed by Dr. Randall from Chennai in 1975 and a report based on collections in 2008 and 2011 from Chennai was published by Misra and Saren, 2016.

On 18th August 2021, two specimens of *Choerodon robustus* was observed and photographed at Jeppiaar Fishing Harbour, Muttom. Though a widely distributed species known from Red Sea to Japan, the reports from India are rare. Eight fishes were also recorded at Threspuram Landing Centre on 27th October 2022. Similarly, 36 fishes were recorded on 12th April 2023 which were caught in bottom set gillnets (58-60 mm mesh size) operated at a depth of 36-40 m and landed in the fish landing centre at Inigo Nagar, Thoothukudi.

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Choerodon typus from Chennai



Choerodon robustus from Muttom