

First Record of the Red Cornetfish, *Fistularia petimba* Lacepède, 1803 (Fistulariidae) from the Persian Gulf (Iran)

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Abstract: Adult specimens the red cornetfish, *Fistularia petimba*, were caught using trawl catches by fisherman for the first time in the Persian Gulf off Abu Musa Island at depth 60 m in January 2011. Of the total fish caught, one sample is described here.

Key words: Red cornetfish • Persian Gulf • *Fistularia petimba* • Abu Musa Island

INTRODUCTION

Fistularia petimba Lacepède (1803) are usually observed along soft bottom coastal areas over 10 m in depth [1]. Thus far, four species of *Fistularia* Linnaeus, 1758 have been discovered, which are distributed in tropical and subtropical waters. These include *F. corneta*, Gilbert and Starks, 1904, *F. petimba* Lacepède, 1803, *F. tabacaria* Linnaeus, 1758 and *F. commersonii* Rüppell, 1835.

Of these, *F. petimba* is widely distributed including the western Atlantic along southeastern Florida, USA to Central America [2]. This species is also found in the Eastern Atlantic along Galicia, Spain [3], Cape Blanc and Cape Verde to Angola [4], as well as Walvis Bay, Namibia [5]. Additionally, *F. petimba* is found in the Indo-Pacific in the Red Sea and from East Africa to the Hawaiian and Tuamotu islands, Northern to Southern Japan and the Ogasawara Islands, as well as to the south in Victoria, Australia [6]. The species is also found in the Mediterranean in Cadiz, Spain (Southern Iberian Peninsula) [7].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

On January 2011, a fisherman caught several adult specimens including the red cornetfish, *Fistularia petimba*, using trawl. The specimens were later identified as *F. petimba*.

RESULTS

Taxonomy

Order Syngnathiformes

Family Fistulariidae

Genus *Fistularia* Linnaeus, 1758

Fistularia petimba Lacepède, 1803

Synonymy

Fistularia immaculata Cuvier, 1816

Fistularia rubra Miranda Ribiero, 1915

Fistularia serrata Cuvier, 1816

Fistularia starksi Jordan and Seale, 1905

Fistularia villosa Klunzinger, 1871

Material Examined: The specimens were collected by fisherman at a depth of 60 m on a mud flat. The description is based upon examination of a specimen collected off Abu Musa Island (Fig. 1). One specimen was deposited at the Persian Gulf Molluscs Research Station (PGMRS) in Hormozgan Province, Bandar-e Lengeh, Iran.

Diagnosis: The body of the specimens were reddish or brownish-orange in colour on the body.

Description: The body of the specimens was very elongated, including a very long and tubular snout, a small and oblique mouth and a forked caudal fin with



Fig. 1: Map showing Abu Musa Island where the *Fistularia petimba* specimens were captured in the Persian Gulf



Fig. 2: Specimen of *Fistularia petimba* caught off Abu Musa Island (Persian Gulf)

the two middle rays elongated in a long filament. The dorsal body colour was reddish or brownish-orange in colour (Fig. 2). The ventral body was white to orange in color. A row of narrow bony plates was present along the side of the body.

Dorsal fin rays: 17; anal fin rays: 17; pectoral fin rays: 15; ventral fin rays: 6; branchiostegal rays: 8; no gillrakers; total length with filament: 1565 mm; total length without filament: 1540 mm; fork length: 1505 mm; standard length: 1470 mm; head length 510 mm; pre-orbital length: 321 (27.2); horizontal eye diameter: 33 mm; snout length: 362 mm; tail length: 110 mm; dorsal rays length: 105 mm; anal rays length: 90 mm; pectoral rays length: 70 mm;

pelvic rays length: 37 mm; caudal rays length: 80 mm; caudal rays length: 80 mm; caudal peduncle length: 196 mm.

DISCUSSION

Presence at depths over 10 m, the side of the body bore a row of narrow bony plates with reddish or brownish-orange color, which are all characteristics of *Fistularia petimba* Lacepède, 1803 [8]. Misidentifications often arise due to the elongated body, which may be confused with other species. However, the bony imbricate plates prior to the dorsal and anal fins in

Fistularia petimba Lacepède, 1803 eliminate such ambiguities [9]. *Fistularia petimba* Lacepède, 1803, has distributed into the Indo-Pacific. However, no observations have been recorded in the Persian Gulf to date. The species has been sighted in the Oman Sea [10-11].

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the staff of the Persian Gulf Molluscs Research Station (PGMRS).

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