New Record of Blue Striped Snapper, *Lutjanus notatus* (Cuvier, 1828) (Family: *Lutjanidae*), From Indian Waters

**Abstract**

Single species of the blue striped snapper, *Lutjanus notatus* belonging to the family *Lutjanidae*, was first time collected from the Visakhapatnam, India. The specimen (156 mm Standard length) was caught by deep sea trawl net in Indian coast. The present study deals with detail description of the species given here with illustration. In addition, pre dorsal scales origin at first dorsal spine and those are extend from first dorsal spine to inter orbital region and pre dorsal scales rows were 12. Transverse check scales were 10; there is no gap between temporal scale bands of each side, Inter orbital with scaly sheath. The present study confirms the presence of *Lutjanus notatus* in Indian coast.

**Keywords:** Ichthyology; Rare species; *L. notatus*; Andhra Pradesh; India

**Materials and Methods**

Single specimen of the *Lutjanus notatus* was collected from Visakhapatnam coastal waters, India (17º44'N, 83º23'E) during the period 2013-2015. Specimen of *L. notatus* was examined and identified as *Lutjanus notatus*. The color of the specimen in the samples was noted in fresh condition. Morphometric and meristic data given in Table 1.

**Results**

*B. notatus* (Cuvier, 1828) (Figure 1) *Diacope notatus* Cuvier (in C. & V.), 1828, Hist. Nat. Poiss, 2: 422 (Type Locality: Indian Ocean).

**Morphometric and meristic data given in Table 1**

Body fusiform, slender to moderately deep; dorsal profile convex; dorsal profile of head gently sloped; snout profile slightly concave; mouth large; maxilla reaches vertical below the midpoint of the eye; eyes are large in size; preorbital bone is narrow than the eye diameter; inter orbital slightly convex; vomerine tooth present without a medial posterior extension; tongue smooth without teeth; palatines present; pre opercle slightly produced at angle on ventral and serrated; upper profile straight with serrations; preopercle notch and knob is well developed. Lower profile rounded with serrations; opercle flap pointed and extended up to the vertical line of origin of the dorsal fin. Head covered with ctenoid scales, originating from inter orbital region and extending up to the base of the first dorsal fin; transverse scales rows on cheek ten. Body covered with ctenoid scales.

Origin of dorsal and pelvic on same line and the origin of pectoral slightly anterior; fifth dorsal spine is longest and succeeding spines decrease in size; soft part of the dorsal fin slightly angular in shape; membrane between the spines is incised; first anal spine shorter than second and third; second anal spine longer and stouter than first and third spine; anal fin angular; pectoral fin pointed, extending up to posterior region of the anus; pelvic fin short; caudal fin emarginated; scales above the lateral line run appear as oblique rows and run straight and parallel below lateral line horizontal to it; below the lateral line, scales are parallel to the ventral side of the body; the scales on caudal peduncle run parallel to the lateral line. Soft parts of dorsal,
anal and pectoral fins covered with scaly sheath; the lateral line is slightly arch shaped up to spinous dorsal end and runs down parallel to the dorsal profile.

**Table 1:** Morphometric and meristic data of species *L. notatus* represented in the catches of Visakhapatnam, India.

| Lutjanus notatus, n=1 |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Standard Length | 156.5L |
| Total Length | 134.61 |
| Body depth | 32.69 |
| Head length | 37.17 |
| Pre dorsal distance | 39.74 |
| Pre pectoral distance | 37.17 |
| Pre pelvic distance | 38.46 |
| Pre anal distance | 66.02 |
| Dorsal fin base | 53.84 |
| Pectoral fin base | 14.74 |
| Anal fin base | 5.76 |
| Dorsal spine height | 14.74 |
| Soft dorsal height | 9.61 |
| 1st anal spine height | 24.35 |
| 2nd anal spine height | 13.46 |
| Soft anal height | 20.51 |
| Pectoral length | 14.74 |
| Pelvic spine length | 1.089 |
| Soft pelvic length | 10.25 |
| Head depth | 75.86 |
| Head width | 53.44 |
| Eye diameter | 25.86 |
| Pre orbital distance | 25.86 |
| Post orbital distance | 44.82 |
| Inter orbital | 25.86 |
| Upper jaw length | 36.20 |
| Lower jaw length | 27.58 |
| Maxillary width | 10.34 |
| Snout length | 18.6 |
| Dorsal | XII,13 |
| Anal | III,8 |
| Pectoral | 16 |
| Ventral | 15 |
| Caudal | 16 |
| Gill rakers | 20 |
| Lateral lines scales | 50 |
| Pored scales | 45 |
| Lateral transverse scales | 7+1+19 |

*Colour*

Anterior part of back and upper part of head brownish; sides yellow, grading to pale yellowish-white ventrally; a series of four narrow blue stripes on sides, the uppermost slanting posteriorly towards dorsal fin base; all fins mainly yellowish.

**Discussion**

Descriptions, meristic counts and morphometric data in the present study are in good agreement with that of [2,5,13]. This species closely resembles *Lutjanus bengalensis* in body shape and coloration, but is separable from it in having gill rakers 26-28 but in this species having 20 gill rakers. This is the new record from mainland of India. This is the rare species from Visakhapatnam coastal waters. This is the IUCN Red list of threatened species [1]. Locally called as "Aratikaya".

**Distribution**

Western Indian Ocean: Mozambique, Natal in South Africa, Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius.

**Habitat and Ecology**

The blue striped snapper inhabits coral reefs in tropical climates. It is found either individually or in groups of 5-10 individual species, at a depth range of 10-50m. This species feeds on small fishes and crustaceans.

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