A first record of the Redbelly Yellowtail Fusilier *Caesio cuning* (Bloch, 1791) (Teleostei: Caesionidae) from Visakhapatnam coastal waters, India

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Muddula Krishna Naranji 1,2, Govinda Rao Velamala 2 & Kondamudi Ramesh Babu 3

1,2,3 Department of Marine Living Resources, College of Science and Technology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 530003, India

krishna.muddu217@gmail.com (corresponding author), govind.v.mlr@gmail.com, krameshmrl@gmail.com

Carpenter (1987) and Froese & Pauly (2016). Counts and measurements were made according to Allen (1985). The specimen was deposited at the Department of Marine Living Resources, Andhra University (DMLRAU52/2015).

Results and Discussion

Genus *Caesio* Lacepede, 1801

*Caesio cuning* (Bloch, 1791) (Image 1)

Telugu name: Dundava

Body moderately deep, dorsal profile of head high, interorbital space strongly convex, profile of snout relatively short and pointed; mouth small, oblique; the lower jaw slightly projecting, the posterior end of maxilla reaching to above front edge of orbit. Preoperative...
bone narrow and less than the eye diameter; eyes are relatively large in size. Villiform teeth in jaws; tongue without tooth; minute teeth in a triangular shaped patch of vomer and a narrow band on palatines. Preopercular flap slightly pointed. Head covered with ctenoid scales; originating from nape region and extending up to the base of the first dorsal spine. Transverse scale rows on cheek four.

Origin of dorsal and pelvic fin on the same line where as the origin of pectoral fin slightly anterior; dorsal fin continuous with ten spines and sixteen soft rays; fourth dorsal spine longest and succeeding spines decreasing length posteriorly. Dorsal fin rounded in shape slightly angular in shape posteriorly; anal fin with three spines; first anal spine shorter than second and second anal spine stouter and longer than third; pectoral pointed, it reaches up to the anterior margin of anus. Pelvic fin angular in shape; caudal fin forked. Body covered with ctenoid scales. Dorsal and anal fin with scaly sheath; lateral line runs parallel to dorsal profile; supra-temporal band of scales confluent at dorsal midline.

Upper body bluish superiorly yellow, lower sides and the belly portion reddish in colour; dorsal fin posteriorly yellow, pectoral fin rays pinkish, pelvic and anal fins reddish in color; axil of pectoral fin black; caudal fin yellowish and iris red.

Remarks: Cuvier (1830) reconciled the colour differences between *Caesio cuning* and the figure of Bloch’s *cuning* as due to Bloch’s incomplete information (Carpenter 1987). When compared with the original description of previous authors (Bloch, 1791 and Carpenter, 1987). The meristic, morphometric and colouration were well in agreement with the present specimen (Tables 1 and 2) except lateral line scales. According to Carpenter (1987), Rao (2004), Padate et al. (2010), and Froese & Pauly (2016) lateral line scales are 47–52; 45–51; 48–51 and 45–51 respectively where as in the present study the lateral line scales are observed to be 54 only.

### Table 1. Comparison of morphometric and meristic characters of *Caesio cuning*

|                | Dorsal | Anal | Pectoral | Ventral | Caudal | GR | Lateral line scales | Lateral transverse scales |
|----------------|--------|------|----------|---------|--------|----|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Day 1875       | X,15   | III,11 | 20       | 1,5     | 17     | -  | -                   | -                         |
| Carpenter 1987 | X,15   | III,11 | -        | -       | -      | -  | -                   | 47-52                     |
| Rao 2004       | X,15   | III,11 | 18-19    | 1,5     | -      | -  | 45-51               | -                         |
| Padate et al. 2010 | X, 15  | III,11 | 17       | 1,5     | -z     | -  | 48-51               | -                         |
| Froese & Pauly 2016 | X,14-16 | III,10-12 | 17-20  | 1,5     | -      | 35-40 | 45-51 | 7-9/15-18          |
| Current specimen | X,15   | III,12 | 17       | 1,5     | 17     | -  | 54                  | 8/16                      |

**Image 1.** *Caesio cuning* (Bloch, 1791) 240mm, TL; Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Table 2. Morphometrics of \textit{Caesio cuning} [DMLRAU52/2015] collected from Visakhapatnam, India

| C. cuning, \(n = 1\) | 12844–12846 |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Percentage of standard length | 136.6mm |
| Total Length | 48.88 |
| Body depth | 30.00 |
| Head length | 42.22 |
| Pre dorsal distance | 27.77 |
| Pre pectoral distance | 29.44 |
| Pre pelvic distance | 65.55 |
| Pre anal distance | 58.33 |
| Pectoral fin base | 6.66 |
| Anal fin base | 45.00 |
| Depth of caudal peduncle | 11.11 |
| 1\textsuperscript{st} Dorsal spine height | 5.00 |
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} Dorsal spine height | 12.77 |
| 3\textsuperscript{rd} Dorsal spine height | 16.11 |
| 1\textsuperscript{st} dorsal ray length | 11.66 |
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} dorsal ray length | 12.22 |
| 1\textsuperscript{st} anal spine height | 2.77 |
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} anal spine height | 11.11 |
| 3\textsuperscript{rd} anal spine height | 9.44 |
| 1\textsuperscript{st} soft anal ray length | 10.00 |
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} soft anal ray length | 8.33 |
| Last soft anal ray length | 13.00 |
| Pectoral length | 33.88 |
| Pelvic spine height | 11.66 |
| Soft pelvic length | 19.44 |
| Body width | 20.00 |
| Head width | 31.00 |
| % of head length | 65.00 |
| Head depth | 57.40 |
| Eye diameter | 25.92 |
| Pre orbital distance | 14.81 |
| Post orbital distance | 51.85 |
| Inter orbital distance | 29.62 |
| Upper jaw length | 33.33 |
| Lower jaw length | 22.22 |
| Maxillary width | 11.11 |
| Snout length | 20.37 |
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