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NOTE

A FIRST RECORD OF THE REDBELLY YELLOWTAIL FUSILIER *CAESIO CUNING* (BLOCH, 1791) (TELEOSTEI: CAESIONIDAE) FROM VISAKHAPATNAM COASTAL WATERS, INDIA

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Caesio cuning (Bloch 1791), commonly known as the Redbelly Yellowtail Fusilier, belongs to the family Caesionidae (order Perciformes) which contains 23 species and four genera. This species is a non-migratory reef associated fish and distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region, from Sri Lanka to Vanuatu and from southern Japan to northern Australia (Carpenter 1988; Froese & Pauly 2016). The species of Caesionidae are characterized by a slender, fusiform and elongated body, unique jaw morphology, and highly protrusible upper jaw with reduced dentition (Carpenter 1987). The genus *Caesio* contains six species throughout the world, *Caesio caerulaurea* (Lacepede, 1801), *C. cuning* (Bloch, 1791), *C. lunaris* (Cuvier, 1830), *C. teres* (Seale, 1906), *C. varilineata* (Carpenter, 1987), and *C. xanthonota* (Bleeker, 1853), and the former three species occur in Indian waters (Froese & Pauly 2016). From Indian waters Day (1958), Silas & Pillai (1982), Talwar & Kacker (1984), Padate et al. (2010), and Rao (2004) reported the occurrence of this species *Caesio cuning*; however, no occurrence of the genus *Caesio* has been reported from Visakhapatnam coastal waters, India. This paper reports the occurrence of *Caesio cuning* for the first time from the coastal waters of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Material and Methods: A single specimen of *C. cuning* was collected from the Visakhapatnam coastal waters, India, on 22 June 2015. The material was fixed in 10% formalin and preserved in 70% ethanol. Identification was based on standard taxonomic keys of

A FIRST RECORD OF THE REDBELLY YELLOWTAIL FUSILIER *CAESIO CUNING* (BLOCH, 1791) (TELEOSTEI: CAESIONIDAE) FROM VISAKHAPATNAM COASTAL WATERS, INDIA

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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

Caesio Lacepede, 1801, pp. 85 (type species: *Caesio caerulaurea* Lacepede, 1801, by subsequent designation (Bleeker, 1876).

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. Preopercular

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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	I,5	17	-	-	-
Carpenter 1987	X,15	III,11	-	-	-	-	47-52	-
Rao 2004	X,15	III,11	18-19	I,5	-	-	45-51	-
Padate et al. 2010	X, 15	III,11	17	I,5	-2	-	48-51	-
Froese & Pauly 2016	X,14-16	III,10-12	17-20	I,5	-	35-40	45-51	7-9/15-18
Current specimen	X,15	III,12	17	I,5	17	-	54	8/16

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

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 upto 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 *C. erythrogaster* and the figure of Bloch's *cuning* as due to Bloch's incomplete information of the original colour (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 2. Morphometrics of *Caesio cuning* [DMLRAU52/2015] collected from Visakhapatnam, India

	<i>C. cuning</i> , n = 1
Percentage of standard length	
Total Length	136.6mm
Body depth	48.88
Head length	30.00
Pre dorsal distance	42.22
Pre pectoral distance	27.77
Pre pelvic distance	29.44
Pre anal distance	65.55
Dorsal fin base	58.33
Pectoral fin base	6.66
Anal fin base	45.00
Depth of caudal peduncle	11.11
1 st Dorsal spine height	5.00
2 nd Dorsal spine height	12.77
3 rd Dorsal spine height	16.11
1 st dorsal ray length	11.66
2 nd dorsal ray length	12.22
1 st anal spine height	2.77
2 nd anal spine height	11.11
3 rd anal spine height	9.44
1 st soft anal ray length	10.00
4 th 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	
Head depth	65.00
Head width	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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Articles

The pattern of bird distribution along the elevation gradient of the Sutlej River basin, western Himalaya, India

-- Balraj Santhakumar, P. Ramachandran Arun, Ramapurath Kozhummal Sony, Maruthakutti Murugesan & Chinnasamy Ramesh, Pp. 12715–12725

Morphological variations in marine pufferfish and porcupinefish (Teleostei: Tetraodontiformes) from Tamil Nadu, southeastern coast of India

--K. Kaleshkumar, R. Rajaram, P. Purushothaman & G. Arun, Pp. 12726–12737

Communications

Possible range decline of Ganges River Dolphin *Platanista gangetica* (Mammalia: Cetartiodactyla: Platanistidae) in Indian Sundarban

-- Sangita Mitra & Mahua Roy Chowdhury, Pp. 12738–12748

Retrospective study on epidemiology of snakebites in Sarpang District, southern Bhutan

-- Bal Krishna Koirala, Jaganath Koirala & Sunil Sapkota, Pp. 12749–12754

Individual identification of *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* (Schneider, 1799) (Amphibia: Anura: Bufonidae) based on dorsal wart patterns

-- Uddalak Tathagato Bindhani & Abhijit Das, Pp. 12755–12768

A preliminary checklist of butterflies from the northern Eastern Ghats with notes on new and significant species records including three new reports for peninsular India

-- Rajkamal Goswami, Ovee Thorat, Vikram Aditya & Seena Narayanan Karimbunkara, Pp. 12769–12791

Aquatic and semi aquatic Hemiptera community of Sonebeel, the largest wetland of Assam, northeastern India

-- Anupama Saha & Susmita Gupta, Pp. 12792–12799

Short Communications

First record of colour aberration in Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis* (Hartlaub, 1891) (Passeriformes: Acrocephalidae) from Central Marshes of southern Iraq, with notes on its intraspecific/interspecific behavior

-- Omar F. Al-Sheikhly, Mukhtar K. Haba, Nadheer A. Faza'a & Ra'ad H. Al-Asady, Pp. 12800–12804

Avian fauna of Amboli Ghat, Sindhudurg District, Maharashtra State, India

-- Varun Satose, Vikrant Choursiya, Rakesh Deulkar & Sasikumar Menon, Pp. 12805–12816

DNA barcoding and morphological characterization of moth *Antoculeora ornattissima* (Walker, 1858) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), a new range record from western Himalayan region of India

-- Twinkle Sinha, P.R. Shashank & Pratima Chaudhuri Chattopadhyay, Pp. 12817–12820

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