

## Record sized *Alepes vari* and *Nematalosa nasus*

Subal Kumar Roul, N. Ragesh, T. B. Retheesh, D. Prakasan and A. R. Akhil  
 ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi  
 e-mail: subalroul@gmail.com

The herring scad, *Alepes vari* is a common pelagic fish species in the family carangidae. The species is the largest fish of the scad genus *Alepes* and maximum length so far recorded all over the world oceans is 560 mm TL (Froese & Pauly, FishBase 2016, <http://www.fishbase.org>). During a regular field visit, an unusually large specimen of *A. vari* was recorded from Kalamukku Landing Centre, Kerala on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. This was a male individual measuring 600 mm in total length (TL) and weighing 1.6 kg (Fig. 1) and was caught by hook and line. Young ones occasionally occur in pelagic trawls and larger ones rarely occur in gill net and hook and line catches.

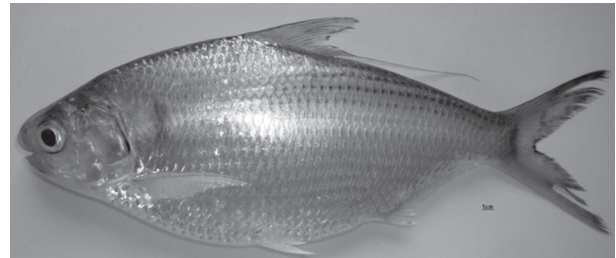
*Nematalosa nasus* (Bloch's gizzard shad), is a small pelagic mostly captured with ringseines and occasionally found in the catches of pelagic trawls and gill nets. During a regular field visit, on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, an unusually large specimen of *N. nasus* (241 mm total length (TL) and 171.5 g total weight (TW) was collected from a chinese dip net, operated at Fort Kochi (Fig. 2). The specimen was deposited in the collections of Marine Biodiversity Museum of CMFRI, (accession number, GB 13.2.37.6). The largest record of *N. nasus* (252 mm TL and 190 g TW) was reported from Chilka Lagoon, Odisha (Panda *et al.*, 2016 *J. Appl. Ichthyol.*, 32(6): 1286-1289). The detailed morphometric measurements and meristic counts of both the species are given in the Table 1.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements and meristic counts of *A. vari* and *N. nasus*

Morphometric characters	<i>Alepes vari</i>		<i>Nematalosa nasus</i>	
	Measurements (mm)	% of TL	Measurements (mm)	% of TL
Total length (TL)	600		241	
Fork length (FL)	490	81.7	206	85.5
Standard length (SL)	452	75.3	186	77.2
Pre 1 <sup>st</sup> dorsal fin length	144	24.0	84	34.9
Pre 2 <sup>nd</sup> dorsal fin length	224	37.3	-	-
Pre pectoral fin length	100	16.7	47	19.5
Pre pelvic fin length	108	18.0	88	36.5
Pre anal fin length	227	37.8	134	55.6
Head length	105	17.5	48	19.9
Pectoral fin length	123	20.5	43	17.8
Pelvic fin length	53	8.8	23	9.5
Maximum body depth	156	26.0	78	32.4
Head length (HL)	105	% HL	48	% HL
Pre-orbital length	31	29.5	13	27.1
Snout length	39	37.1	18	37.5
Eye diameter	17	16.2	12	25.0
Inter orbital width	41	39.0	20	41.7

**Meristic counts**

1 <sup>st</sup> dorsal fin	VIII	17
2 <sup>nd</sup> dorsal fin	I+26	-
Anal fin	I+22	22
Detached anal fin spines	II	-
Pectoral fin	I+19	16
Pelvic fin	I+5	8
Gill rakers on first gill arch	24+10=34	-
Lateral line scutes	69	-
Belly scutes	-	18+13=31

Fig. 1. *Alepes vari* (600 mm TL)Fig. 2. *Nematalosa nasus* (241 mm TL)