

Occurrence of the goldband fusilier, *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (Cuvier, 1830) along Visakhapatnam, east coast of India

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Pterocaesio chrysozona (Cuvier, 1830) commonly known as goldband fusilier belongs to the family Caesionidae of Order Perciformes. The species is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific, from East Africa, including the Red Sea, to eastern Australia. From Indian waters, this species has been reported from south India, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is a valuable baitfish for tuna in the Laccadives, Maldives and the West Pacific. and also used as a food fish in some areas.

One specimen of the species was collected from trawl catch at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on 6th January, 2013. The specimen was identified as *P. chrysozona* and was deposited at the Marine Museum of VRC of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam (Fig.1). This is the first report on the occurrence of *P. chrysozona* along Visakhapatnam, east coast of India. The species is easily distinguished with its fusiform, elongate and moderately compressed body. Upper body is light blue to brownish, lower body white to pinkish; with a bright yellow band directly below lateral line for most of its length from behind the eye to the base of caudal fin; axil of pectoral fin black; dorsal fin slightly dusky distally; tips of caudal lobes black. Meristic and morphometric Table 1 characters recorded are as given below :



Fig 1. Goldband fusilier, *Pterocaesio chrysozona* (Cuvier 1830)

Meristic characters: D X, 15; P 18; V I, 5; C 15; A III, 12; LI 65

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Pterocaesio chrysozona*

Total length	189
Standard length	155.7
Fork length	167
Preanal length	101.3
Predorsal length	55.75
Prepelvic length	51.03
Prepectoral length	43.47
Body depth	40.25
Head length	38.93
Eye diameter	14.10
Preorbital length	8.05