

A NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF *POMADASYS JUBELINI*
(CUVIER) ALONG THE INDIAN COAST

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ABSTRACT

Pomadasys jubelini (Cuvier) has been recorded for the first time from the Indian coast based on a specimen obtained from the Bombay coast. A description of the species has been given.

The genus *Pomadasys* Lacepede 1802 (synonymous with *Pristipoma* Cuvier), according to Day (1878), is represented by nine species in Indian waters, viz. *P. stridens*, *P. olivaceum*, *P. furcatum*, *P. hasta*, *P. commersorii*, *P. maculatum*, *P. dussumieri*, *P. guoraka* and *P. operculare*. Of these, only *P. hasta* locally known as 'Karkara' forms a major fishery in the trawler landings along the Bombay-Saurashtra coasts. During the biological studies on *P. hasta*, while examining the samples of fish collected from Sassoon Docks, Bombay, the author came across a single specimen of *Pomadasys jubelini* (Cuvier), whose occurrence has not hitherto been recorded from the Indian waters. The known distribution of this species lies along the west coast of Africa, from Senegal to Angola. The present collection from Bombay is of particular interest as it extends its distribution further eastward into the Arabian Sea. This being a new distributional record from the Indian seas, a brief description of the specimen is given.

POMADASYS JUBELINI (CUVIER)

Pristipoma jubelini Cuvier, 1830, p. 187 (250); Bleeker, 1863, p. 54; Steindachner, 1870, p. 675; Boulenger, 1903 (1905), p. 554; Regan, 1915, p. 126.

Pomadasys jubelini Fowler, 1917, p. 53; 1919, p. 257.

Pomadasys jubelini Fowler, 1936, p. 802.

Material — One specimen, 256 mm total length (weight 418 g) from Bombay coast, landed at Sassoon Docks, 2nd March 1966. Deposited in the Reference Collection Museum of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute No. CMFRI - F. 108/634.

D. XI, 15; A. III, 8; P. 17; V. 1, 5; C. 18; L. 1. 48; L. tr. 6/12.

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Head 3.1; depth of body 2.9 in total length. Snout 3.31; eye 4.8; maxillary 3.6; interorbital 3.4; ventral 1.6; pectoral 1.1; caudal 1.67 in head length. Length of fourth dorsal spine 1.95; length of first soft dorsal ray 2.56; length of second anal spine 2.2; least depth of caudal peduncle 3.28 in head length. Scales 48 along lateral line up to caudal base; 6 scales above lateral line and 12 below; predorsal scales 44.

Body oblong, well compressed, edges convex. Mouth terminal, small. Maxillary reaching upto the anterior margin of the orbit. Villiform teeth in jaws, none on vomer. A median groove behind symphysis of mandible and with two small pores on the chin. Nostrils close to each other, anterior one larger. Snout conic. Eyes large, 1.47 in snout; interorbital slightly convex. Edges of operculum serrated, serrations more prominent around the angle of the hind preopercle. Gill-rakers 12 on the lower limb of the outer arch. First dorsal spine shortest, about half the length of the second, which is 4.1 in head length. Third dorsal spine longest, 1.9 in head length, equal to half the height of the body. The rest of the spines decreasing in length upto tenth, which is 4.55 in head length. Eleventh spine longer than the tenth, 3.9 in head length. First soft dorsal ray longer than the eleventh spine. First anal spine short, about 1/5 in length of the second spine. The second anal spine longest, 2.22 in head length, but shorter than the third dorsal spine. The third anal spine smaller than the second, 2.73 in head. First anal ray longer than the third anal spine. Pectoral pointed, reaching beyond the origin of anal. Ventral reaching just in front of vent. Ventral spine 2.34 in head length. Caudal truncate. Lateral line follows the same course as the dorsal profile.

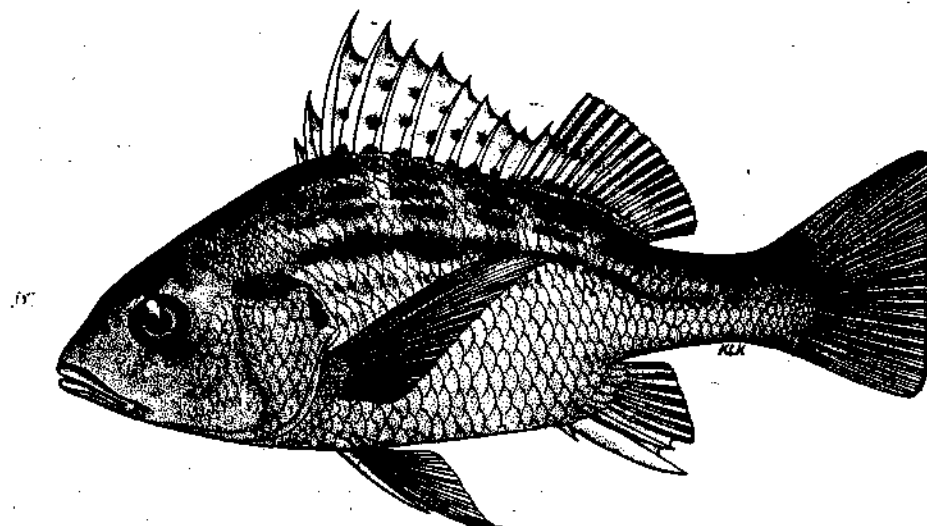


FIG. 1. *Pomadasys jubeltni* (Cuvier) landed at Sassoon Docks, Bombay on 2nd March, 1966.

Colour — In fresh condition, body silvery grey with dark brown dots forming four interrupted transverse bands, darker in upper side and lighter in the middle. A small black spot at the edge of the hind opercle. Three rows of brown spots on

the dorsal fin. Spinous membrane transparent, whitish with minute grey dots and black edges. Base of the ventrals, pectorals and anal yellowish. Tips of the caudal dark in colour, preceded by a light yellow transverse band.

Distribution — Eastern Atlantic Ocean, along the west coast of Africa, from Senegal to Angola (Goree; Ashantee, St. Louis, Cameroons, Congo, mouth of Mesurado River, Liberia, Senegambia, Guet N'Dar, Dakar, Cap Manuel, Buluma, cape Mount, Rio Benito, Spanish Guinea, Lagune de Grand-Bassam, Ivory Coast, Librevilla, Gabon, Banana, Lagos, Elmina, Great Batanga) and Indian Ocean—Arabian Sea, along the west coast of India (Bombay).

Remarks — The present specimen agrees closely in all characters, with *Pomadasys jubelini* (Cuvier) as described by Fowler (1936), except for a few small differences. In the present specimen the head length is 3.1 in total length as against 2.6—3.0 in Fowler's (1936) description; the interorbital is 3.4 in head as against 3.6—4.3; and the gill-raker 12 as against 13—15. The important characters of *P. jubelini* distinguishing it from the other known Indian species are worth mentioning here. Of the nine species recorded from Indian waters, eight species can easily be distinguished from *P. jubelini* by a single character, viz., the number of dorsal spines. In *P. jubelini* there are 10—11 dorsal spines whereas in the other eight species they are either 12, as in *P. stridens*, *P. olivaceum*, *P. hasta*, *P. commersonii*, *P. maculatum* and *P. dussumieri*, or 12—13, as in *P. furcatum* and *P. guoraka* (Day, 1878; Weber and de Beaufort, 1936). The remaining one species viz. *P. operculare* has 11 dorsal spines (Day, 1878; Smith, 1953) as in *P. jubelini*. But the former can be differentiated from the latter species by other characters like the number of gill-rakers, size of the eye, number of lateral line scales, etc. In *P. jubelini* the gill-raker count is 12—15 as against 15—17 in *P. operculare*; the diameter of the eye $3\frac{1}{3}$ — $5\frac{2}{5}$ as against $\frac{2}{11}$, the lateral line scales 46—51 as against 56—60 and the number of scales across the body at the shoulder, i.e. L. tr., $\frac{5 \text{ or } 6}{11-14}$ as against 9/19.

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