

First record of pelican flounder, *Chascanopsetta lugubris* from Malabar region



Chascanopsetta lugubris

Pelican flounders are distributed in the Eastern Atlantic: Gulf of Guinea round the Cape to Natal, South Africa. Western Atlantic: Florida, USA and northern Gulf of Mexico to Brazil. Indo-Pacific: off the eastern coast of Africa and off India and Sri Lanka to Japan. Few specimens of *Chascanopsetta lugubris* (Alcock), 1894, belonging to

the family Bothidae was observed in the discard sample collected from Puthiappa Fisheries Harbour on 16.8.2010. The specimens measuring 218 - 222 mm in length and weighing 48 - 51 g were caught by a trawler operated off Calicut at a depth of 160m. The distinguishing characters of this species is that the body is elongate,

laterally compressed and eyes are on left side. It is having a uniform dark grey colour, maxilla long extending backward well beyond posterior edge of eye. Large mouth with small teeth and gillrakers absent. Dorsal fin rays 115-118, origin of fin well in front of eyes; anal fin rays 71 to 82; pelvic fin bases unequal in length, that on eyed side much longer. Scales small, cycloid on both sides and 189 in lateral line. It is having greyish colour in eye side; fins dusky; peritoneum black, visible through the thin abdominal walls. Blind side uniformly light. It is usually found in the deeper continental shelf to depths of almost 1,000 m. It is very rare in the trawl catches.

(Reported by P. P. Manojkumar, Calicut Research Centre of CMFRI)