

## Rare Palmate octopus landed

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In recent years, the octopus fishery is gaining importance due to the increase in the export demands. The catches of the same has been steadily increasing due to the expansion of the trawl fishing activities into the deeper waters. They are mainly landed as by-catch in the trawl landings. The octopus landings in Malabar are mainly supported by the species like *Amphioctopus neglectus*, *A. marginatus*, *Octopus vulgaris*, *Cistopus indicus*, *Callistoctopus luteus*

etc. However, in the last week of August 2018 rare palmate octopus *Tremoctopus gracilis* were observed. Also known as blanket octopus, it belongs to the family tremoctopodidae. Eleven specimens of *T. gracilis*, measuring 6.7 to 12.5 cm mantle length and weighing 86 to 554 g each in total weight were landed by a multiday trawler in the Puthiyappa Fisheries Harbour, Kozhikode, Kerala. This is the first record of the species from the Malabar region.



Fig. 1. *Tremoctopus gracilis* specimen