

# caught off Visakhapatnam

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Goatfish constitute an important demersal fishery resource landed at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. They formed 14.4% of the trawl landings of the harbour and comprised of *Upeneus vittatus* (57.0%), *Upeneus sulphureus* (24.6%), *Upeneus moluccensis* (18%) and *Upeneus tragula* (0.4%). *Parupeneus heptacanthus* and *Parupeneus indicus* occur rarely in the fishery. During 2005 - 2009, the annual goatfish catch of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour was in the range of 2177 - 3463 t with an average catch of 2859 t. The annual average landings of *U. moluccensis* during 2005 -'09 was 515 t forming 18% of the total goatfish catch at the fishing harbour. They are mainly exploited by bottom trawlers along with marginal exploitation by both drift and bottom set gillnets.



Fig. 1. *Upeneus moluccensis*

During the last week of August and first week of September 2010, multiday trawling boats landed large sized gold band goatfish, *U. moluccensis* at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. The local name of the gold band goatfish is 'pasupugulivand'. A large goatfish ever caught at Visakhapatnam coast measured 211 mm in total length and weighed 121 g.

Table. 1. Morphometric measurements (mm) of the large sized goat fish *U. moluccensis* landed at Visakhapatnam

Parameters	Measurements (mm)
Total length	211
Fork length	196
Standard length	175
Predorsal length	78
Preanal length	116
Prepelvic length	60
Prepectoral length	58
Preorbital length	21
Head length	54
Eye diameter	13
Caudal height	35
Maximum height of the body	49
Length of first dorsal fin base	26
Length of second dorsal fin base	24
Length of pelvic fin	31
Length of pectoral fin	44
Length of anal fin	23
Eye diameter	13
Wet weight	121g
Sex and maturity stage	Female, VII a

It was caught as trawl bycatch on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. Earlier Vivekanandan *et al.* (2003) recorded the goatfish *U. moluccensis*, with a maximum length of 189 mm caught at Chennai coast. The maximum length recorded by Fishbase is 200 mm (Sommer *et al.*, 1996). The present specimen is larger than those reported earlier.