

First occurrence of yellow boxfish, *Ostracion cubicus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Tetraodontiformes: Ostraciidae*) from Gulf of Mannar

Kannan, K., Ranjith, L., Sureshkumar, K., Mohamed Sathakkathulla, S., John James, K., Paaulpandi, A. and Madan, M. S.
Tuticorin Research Centre of CMFRI, Tuticorin

On 8th July, 2013 a single specimen of *Ostracion cubicus* (Fig.1) measuring total length 176 mm with a weight of 200 g was collected from a commercial trawler, operated at a depth 20 m, 25 km north-west off Tuticorin, southeast coast of India. Methods for measurements and counts followed Matsuura and Yamakawa (1982).

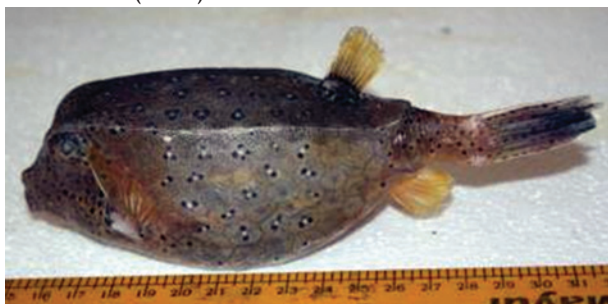


Fig .1. *Ostracion cubicus* Linnaeus, 1758

Ostraciidae family has eight genus and 24 species. The genus *Ostracion* has eight species and these species are slow-swimming benthic-dwelling fishes found to occur around rocky coral reefs, open sand bottoms and seagrass beds. These species are reported up to a depth of 90 m. The body of *O. cubicus* is completely enclosed in a rectangular carapace in the form of thickened scale plates, hexagonal in shape and firmly sutured to one another. Carapace is four-ridged and spineless. Ridges are blunt, but the ventral is more prominent than the dorsal ones. The carapace

has openings for the mouth, eyes, gill slits, and fins, and for the flexible caudal peduncle; mouth small, terminal, with fleshy lips; teeth moderate and conical.

Body olive in color; dorsal, anal, pectoral fins are yellow in colour but caudal fin olive with black spots.

Table 1. Morphometric and meristic characters of the *O. cubicus*

Morphometric	mm
Total length	176.01
Standard length	141.05
Head length,	35.11
Snout length	29.06
Eye diameter	10.96
Interorbital width	31.32
Postorbital length	4.96
Gill opening length	13.12
Predorsal length	97.64
Dorsal fin height	21.8
Length of dorsal fin base	10.64
Preanal length	108.86
Anal fin height	21.52
Length of anal fin base	9.92
Pectoral fin length	27.24
Caudal peduncle length	27.55
Caudal peduncle depth,	15.35
Body width	47.77
Body depth	50.51
Meristic counts	
Dorsal fin rays	9
Anal fin rays	9
Caudal fin rays	10