



## Short Communication

### NEW RECORD OF *ARGYROPS BLEEKERI* (FAMILY: SPARIDAE) IN INDIAN WATERS.

#### INTRODUCTON

Sparidae, commonly known as seabreams, are inhabitant of tropical and temperate coastal waters. They are occasional visitors of brackish waters, bays, coastal reefs, etc. They are one of the important food fishes. The family sparidae has about 129 species in 35 genera in Worldwide (Froese & Pauly, 2010). The extensive literature survey on fish records of Indian coast shows records of 9 species from 7 genera in Indian waters (Talwar & Kacker, 1984; Froese & Pauly, 2010). During the surveys at Digha coast, authors have come across one specimen of the family Sparidae and after Close observation of distinguishing features, the specimen is identified as *Argyrops bleekeri* (Oshima, 1927), King Soldier Bream. The literature review shows that it is so far not reported in Indian waters and new addition to Indian ichthyofauna.

#### CLASSIFICATION

Class ACTINOPTERYGII  
Order PERCIFORMES  
Family SPARIDAE

#### COMMON NAMES

*Argyrops bleekeri* (Oshima, 1927) is commonly known as King Soldier-Bream, Taiwan Tai, Long-spine seabream, Red Bokako, Bowen Snapper, Long Spined Red Bream, Spare royal (French), Sargo real (Spanish). There is no vernacular name in India for this species.

#### SYNONYMS

1927. *Argyrops bleekeri* Oshima, *Japanese Journal of Zoology*, 1(15): 141 (Taiwan). 2002. *Argyrops bleekeri* Nakabo, *Fishes of Japan with pictorial keys to the species*: 858.

#### MATERIALS EXAMINED

2 ex., TL 10-21cm, Location: 1 ex from Talsari (Orissa); Date: 08.02.2010, Coll.: Prasanna Yennawar & Prasad Tudu, MARC, ZSI, Digha. The fish was displayed in the aquarium tanks of MARC, ZSI, Digha (Fig. 1a). 1 ex from Mohana (Digha, West Bengal), Date: 10.10.2011, Coll.: Dipanjan Ray. Identified: Dr. Prasanna Yennawar & P. Tudu, Reg No. F 1969 (Fig. 1b)



Fig. 1 a & b: King Soldier Bream *Argyrops bleekeri* (Oshima, 1927).

#### DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Body deep, strongly compressed laterally. Upper profile of head steep and almost straight from upper jaw to eye and eyes are large. Dorsal

fin with 11 spines and 11 soft rays, the first spine very short, 2nd to 7th spines flattened and much elongated; anal fin with 3 spines and 8 soft rays; caudal fin deeply emarginated to forked with pointed lobes. Head 2.43 times in SL, CL 3.31 times in SL and eye diameter 2.9 times in head length, Scales large, 54 in lateral line, scaled area between eyes narrow, ending in a point; soft dorsal and anal fins with low basal scaly sheaths. Colour: body mainly silvery pinkish, darker on head; usually dark red on margin of upper, part of opercle; all fins pink. Body with 5-6 vertical red bands, 2nd & 3rd bifurcates dorsally above lateral line. It attains maximum size up to 40cm (Nakabo, 1982), however, the example examined was measured upto 10 cm. The maximum weight attained was recorded 3500g (Nakabo, 1982).

#### DISTRIBUTION

It is reported in Western Pacific: Japan to southeast Asia (Nakabo, 2002) and northwest coast of Australia which was available in cruise summary of FRV *Soela*, SO 4/80 (unpublished data). In India, this species is so far not reported.

#### REMARKS

This species is reported for the first time in Indian waters.

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PRASANNA YENNAWAR\* AND PRASAD TUDU  
*Marine Aquarium & Regional Centre Zoological Survey of India,*  
*Digha 721428 WB*

\* Email: [yprasanna@rocketmail.com](mailto:yprasanna@rocketmail.com)