

**TETROSOMUS CONCATENATUS (BLOCH) A NEW RECORD FOR
INDIAN SEAS**

WHILE examining the shore seine catches at Vizhingam Bay on 30-4-69 we came across three species of box fishes of the family Ostraciontidae. Two of the species viz., *Ostracion gibbosus*¹ and *Ostracion nasus*² are already known from Indian waters (Day 1889 and Munro 1955) and the third species is found to agree with the descriptions given by Smith (1961) for *Ostracion concatenatus* (Bloch) which is the first record from Indian coast.

Briggs (1962) has mentioned the occurrence of ten species of *Ostracion* with the exception of *Ostracion concatenatus*. The only available information regarding the abundance of this species is from South African coasts by Smith (1961). Hence a description of the species based on our material is given below :

***Tetrasomus concatenatus* (Bloch)**

Tetrasomus gibbosus Smith 1961.

Rhyncostracion nasus Munro 1955.

Tetrasomus concatenatus Smith 1961.

D 9, A 9, C 10, P 10.

Head and body encased in a carapace formed of large juxtaposed mostly hexagonal bony plates, bearing an anterior opening for the mouth, small slits for the gill opening and a posterior opening for the caudal peduncle. Carapace elevated and distinctly three-angled; two spines on dorsal ridge, the posterior one being larger; one spine on the ventral ridge. Premaxillaries not protractile, firmly united with the maxillaries. Teeth not coalesced, about ten in each jaw. Lips rather thick. No spinous dorsal fin and no ventrals.

Colour : Bluish stripes bordered with broad dusk brown stripes and spots on both sides ; a prominent dark brown patch in between eyes ; bony plates of head, back and sides yellowish grey.

Measurements (mm.)

Total length ..	..	..	..	..	190
Standard length ..	..	..	..	..	165
Length of caudal peduncle from the posterior end of carapace ..	..	..	..	..	25
Carapace length ..	..	..	..	..	135
Max. ht. of carapace ..	..	..	..	..	75
Breadth of body ..	..	..	..	..	69
Diameter of eye ..	..	..	..	..	18
Inter-orbital space ..	..	..	..	..	25
Snout to dorsal ..	..	..	..	..	110
" to anal ..	..	..	..	..	120
" to vent ..	..	..	..	..	115
Height of caudal peduncle ..	..	..	..	..	15
Maximum length of dorsal ..	..	..	..	..	25
" " of anal ..	..	..	..	..	25
" " of caudal ..	..	..	..	..	35
" " of pectoral ..	..	..	..	..	25

Remarks : This species is distinguished from *Tetrosomus gibbosus* in the absence of a large, short, triangular spine on the middle of the dorsal ridge and 4 well developed backwardly directed strong spines on the ventral ridges.

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