

**OXYMONACANTHUS LONGIROSTRIS (SCHNEIDER) [ALUTERIDAE]  
AND BOTHUS MANCUS (BROUSSONET) [BOTHIDAE] TWO NEW  
RECORDS OF FISHES FROM INDIA**

**ABSTRACT**

Two species of fishes viz., *Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Family Aluteridae) and *Bothus mancus* (Family Bothidae) are recorded for the first time from Indian waters along the south-west coast. These species are illustrated and the description based on the materials examined are also given.

DURING a study of the fish collections from the south-west coast of India, a specimen of *Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Schneider), belonging to the family Aluteridae and an example of *Bothus mancus* (Broussonet), belonging to the family Bothidae, were discovered. As these two species have not hitherto been recorded from the Indian coast, their occurrence is reported here.

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***Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Schneider)**

*Balistes hispidus* var. *longirostris* Schneider, 1801, *Syst. Ichthyol.* : 464 (type locality : not given).

*Oxymonacanthus longirostris* de Beaufort and Briggs, 1962, *Fishes Indo-Australian Archipelago*, **11** : 336, fig. 76.

**Material** : One ex., 72 mm in total length ; Vizhinjam (Kerala) ; coll. Dr. A. Daniel on 17-9-60. Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. F 6161/2.

**Description** : D<sub>1</sub>. 11, D<sub>2</sub>. 31 ; A. 24 ; P. 12.

Depth of body 32.7; length of head 37.7 per cent of standard length. Diameter of eye 21.7; interorbital width 26.0; snout 73.9; pectoral fin 28.2; least depth of caudal peduncle 39.2; length of dorsal fin base 95.6; anal fin base 86.9; and first dorsal spine 95.6 per cent of head length.

Body elongate, compressed; snout long, tubular, small mouth opening upwards; gill-opening small, situated behind eye; scales minute, with spinules directed backwards, elongate and hairy on those of caudal peduncle. First dorsal spine strong and long with barbs directed upwards at its anterior side, and directed downwards on its posterior side; second spine inconspicuous; second dorsal with simple articulated rays, anterior rays somewhat longer than posterior ones, about half length of first dorsal spine; anal originates below 5th dorsal ray; ventral spine not movable, attached to abdomen by single membrane; caudal truncate; colour in alcohol—pale brownish with regular series of rounded light brown spots, larger than spaces of ground colour between them; vertical black spot on posterior half of caudal.

*Distribution*: The monotypic genus *Oxymonacanthus* Bleeker is confined to the tropical Indo-West Pacific being reported from the Western Indian Ocean, the East Indies, the Philippines, Melanesia and Polynesia, and the present record in an intermediate area of its range is not surprising and is the first report from the Indian Seas.

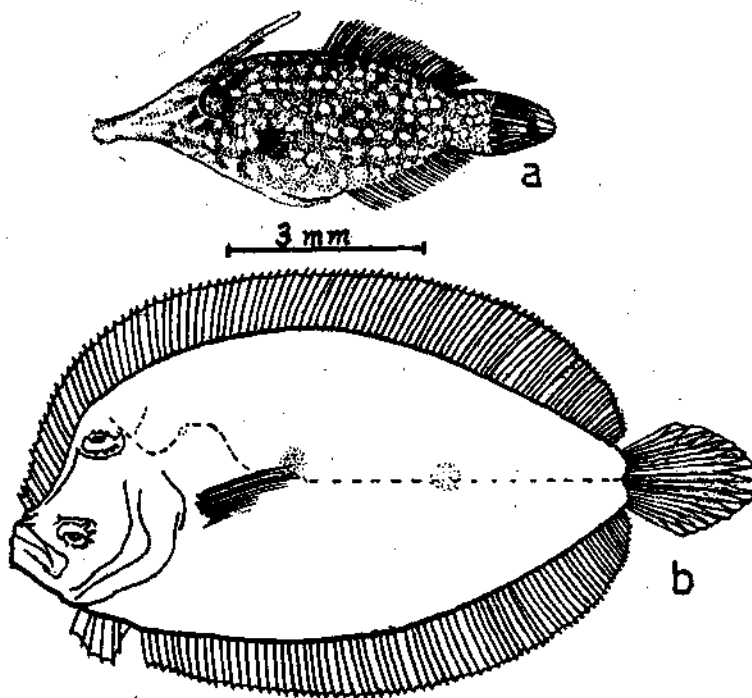


Fig. 1. a. *Oxymonacanthus longirostris* (Schneider); and b. *Bothus mancus* (Broussonet).

**Bothus mancus (Broussonet)**

*Pleuronectes mancus* Broussonet, 1782, *Ichthyologia, Decas 1* : no pagination (type locality : Tahiti).

*Bothus mancus*, Weber and de Beaufort, 1929, *Fish. Indo-Australian Archipel.*, 5 : 122 ; Norman, 1927, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 29 : 34 ; 1934, *Systematic Monograph Flatfishes*, 1 : 230, fig. 174.

*Material* : One ex. 194 mm in total length, Cochin (Kerala), coll. Dr. H. S. Rao, December, 1927. Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. F 6162/2.

*Description* : D. 98 ; A. 75 ; P. sin. 12. P. dextr. 11 ; V. 6 ; C. 17 ; Le. 92 ; G.R. 0 + 10.

Depth of body 54.5, length of head 27.2 per cent of standard length. Anterior border of upper eye slightly before vertical through posterior border of eye ; diameter of eye 20.6, interorbital width 29.3, length of maxillary 32.6 per cent of head length ; interorbital space convex, scaled ; mouth curved, oblique, maxillary extending to below anterior border of eye ; teeth uniserial with traces of second row near symphysis ; scales ctenoid on ocular side, cycloid on blind side ; fins—dorsal beginning on blind side on snout ; anal originates halfway between vertical through hind border of upper eye and hind border of operculum ; dorsal and anal rays simple, caudal rays forked ; colour in alcohol—pale brownish, with numerous rounded spots ; a diffuse dark blotch at junction of straight and curved parts of lateral line and another on middle of straight portion of lateral line ; blind side, right pectoral and ventral pale yellowish white.

*Distribution* : Widespread, from the Western Indian Ocean through the East Indies, the Philippines to the west coast of Mexico. This is the first record from the Indian coast.

*Remarks* : Sewell's specimen of *Bothus mancus* from the Maldivé Islands is fortunately available in our collections for reference. The specimen from the Kerala coast agrees well with the Maldivé Island specimen and with the descriptions of the species given by Weber and de Beaufort (1929) and Norman (1934) except in having a lower anal fin ray count (75 vs. 77-79).

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## REFERENCES

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