

## Short Note

### First record of *Lutjanus indicus* Allen, White & Erdmann, 2013 (Pisces: Lutjanidae) from marine water off Iraq

During survey of marine fishes in territorial marine waters of Iraq in 2014, one specimen of *Lutjanus indicus* Allen, White & Erdmann, 2013 was caught by gill net from marine water, southern Iraq during 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The specimen was fixed and preserved in 10% formalin and deposited temporarily in the author's collection in the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, College of Agriculture, University of Basrah. Distinguished characters between the species and other *Lutjanus* species known from Iraq and the Arabian Gulf were briefly provided. Lutjanidae (snappers) are represented in the Arabian Gulf with 11 species belonging to three genera. However, the genus *Lutjanus* has nine species in the region (Carpenter *et al.*, 1997, Living marine resources of Kuwait, Eastern Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. FAO. 293pp). The following seven *Lutjanus* species have been recorded from Iraq; *Lutjanus argentimaculatus* (Forsskål, 1775); *L. fulviflamma* (Forsskål, 1775); *L. johnii* (Bloch, 1792); *L. lutjanus* Bloch, 1790; *L. malabaricus* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801); *L. quinquelineatus* (Bloch, 1790) and *L. russellii* (Bleeker, 1849). Bodies of *L. fulviflamma*, *L. quinquelineatus* and *L. russellii* only have both stripes and large black spot. The body is reddish brown with yellow longitudinal bands (stripes) in *L. fluviflamma*, bright yellow with five blue stripes lowermost one passing below pectoral fin base in *L.*

*quinquelineatus* and silver with 7-8 golden-brown stripes in *L. russellii*.



Allen *et al.* [Two new species of snappers (Pisces: Lutjanidae: *Lutjanus*) from the Indo-West Pacific. J. Ocean Sci. Foundation 6:33-51, 2013] re-examined many specimens of the widely distribution *L. russellii* from both Indian and Pacific oceans and confirmed that the species occurred in Indian Ocean, including that from Oman and Bahrain, belong to new species (*L. indicus*). Based on DNA analysis and one morphological character (the dark spot), they found strong genetic variations between the above two species. This dark spot is situated well above the lateral line with only one-scale row within the spot lying below it in *L. indicus*. In contrast, the more horizontally elongated spot of *L. russellii* is approximately bisected by the lateral line. Thanks to Dr. G. Allen from Western Australian Museum for confirming the identification of image of the present specimen as *L. indicus*. Hence, the occurrence of this snapper represents its first record in Iraq.

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