

**Short Communication**

**ON THE CONFIRMATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *EPHIPPUS ORBIS* (BLOCH)  
(PISCES : EPHIPPIDAE) IN WEST BENGAL**

Misra (1962 : 279) listed the spade fish *Ephippus orbis* (Bloch) from West Bengal. Later, Talwar *et al.* (1994 : 299) in their comprehensive account of marine and estuarine fish from this state, considered the above record of *E. orbis* as doubtful and omitted from their account. This record thus confirms the occurrence of *E. orbis* in coastal water of West Bengal. A brief description of the specimens is given hereunder.

***Ephippus orbis* (Bloch)**

1787. *Chaetodon orbis* Bloch, *Naturg. Ausland Fische*, 3 : 81.

1878. *Ephippus orbis* : Day, *Fish. India* : 115; pl. 29, fig. 4

**Material** : Four specimens, 8.0 to 12.6 cm in standard length; collected from Digha 'mohna' West Bengal (Lat. 21°36' N, long 87°30' E) on 7.5.97 & 30.7.97 by S. Mitra; ZSI-MARC Regd. No. 57.

**Diagnostic Characters** : D IX 9; A III 15; P 19; C 19. Body deep, almost circular, strongly compressed, depth 73.8-76.2% in standard length. Head short, 29.7-31.8% in standard length. Mouth small, terminal, not protrusible, teeth in bands, setiform. Top of head densely scaled; opercle covered with scales almost to its ventral edge. Dorsal spines moderately strong, 3rd and 4th spines longest. Scales small, finely ciliated.

**Colour** : Greenish brown; 4 to 5 vertical black bars on body from dorsal fin base to belly in young specimens; margins of soft dorsal, pelvic, anal and caudal fins dusky black.

**Geographical distribution** : Indo-West Pacific.

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## REFERENCES

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