



**Accession Number: - ZOO107**

**Scientific Name: *Mene maculata***

**Family: Menidae**

**Common Name: Moonfish**

**Physical Characteristics:**

The body is highly compressed laterally and very deep vertically. The ventral profile is steep, with a sharp ventral edge. The caudal (tail) fin is deeply forked. The mouth is small and protrusible. The body is silvery below and blue-green on the back, with three to four rows of dark grey spots on the upper side. The first two rays of the pelvic fin are greatly elongated, forming a prominent backwards-pointing process on the underside of the fish.



**Geographical Distribution:**

The Indo-Pacific, including the waters off East Africa, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea, the waters around Indonesia, the Philippines, and northern Australia.

**Economic Importance:**

It is significant for commercial and subsistence fisheries, holds potential for aquaculture, and contributes to ecotourism and recreational fishing. Ecologically, it helps maintain the balance of marine ecosystems and serves as an indicator of environmental health.