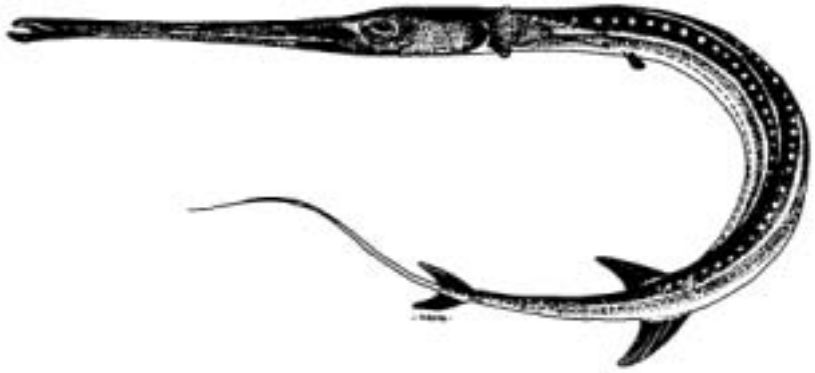
Fistularia commersonii Ruppell, 1838



English Name:	Bluespotted cornet fish	Family:	FISTULARIIDAE
Local Name:	Onugandu tholhi	Order:	Gasterosteiformes
Size:	Common to 1 m; max. 1.6 m.	Specimen:	MRS/0056/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 15-17 rays. Anal fin with 14-16 rays. Pectoral fin with 14-16 (usually 15) rays. Ridges on snout with antrose serrations, the upper ridge diverging anteriorly. No bony plates along dorsal midline of body. Body extremely elongate and depressed, the width twice the depth. Snout long and tubular. Mouth small, caudal fin forked with trailing filament.

Colour: Greenish to brownish grey above, silvery below. Two blue stripes or rows of blue spots on back.

Habitat and Biology: Ranges over reefs, sea grass beds and sand flats. Feeds on small fishes and shrimps.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: *Fistularia commersonii* is a **more active** swimmer than other cornet fishes. This species was previously misidentified as *F. petimba* Lacepède, in the Catalogue of Fishes of the Maldives, Vol.1, page 64. *F. petimba* is a more deep water species and has red coloured markings (see next page).

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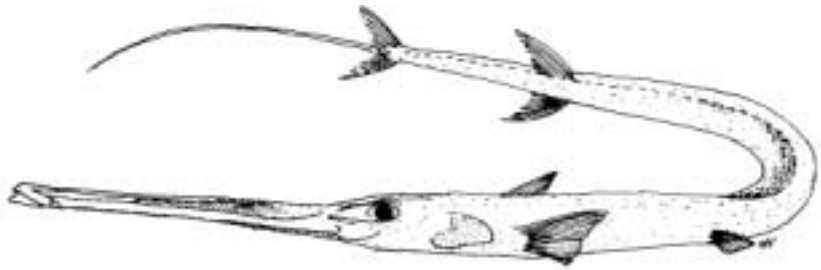
Fistularia petimba Lacepède, 1803



English Name:	Red cornet fish	Family:	FISTULARIIDAE
Local Name:	Raiy onugandu tholhi	Order:	Gasterosteiformes
Size:	Common to 1 m; max. 2 m	Specimen:	MRS/0308/88

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 14-17 rays. Anal fin with 14-15 rays. Pectoral fin with 15-17 rays. Body elongate with mouth at end of long tubular snout. Row of bony plates along top of body in front of dorsal fin. Small spines along posterior part of lateral line. Forward pointing spines on snout ridges. Upper ridges parallel.

Colour: Red to orange brown above, silvery below. Vertical fins also have an orange cast.

Habitat and Biology: Found in coastal areas, over soft bottoms usually at depths greater than 30 m. Feeds on small fishes and shrimps.

Distribution: Indo-West Pacific and tropical Atlantic.

Remarks: The specimen of *Fistularia petimba* on which this report is based was found in the stomach of a yellowfin tuna caught by R.V. 'Matha Hari about 30 nautical miles east of Lhaviyani Atoll. Although partially digested it could be identified by its red colour and the pattern of spines on its snout.

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