

A revision of the Indo-Pacific fish genus *Caragobius* (Gobiidae: Amblyopinae)

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Abstract

The Indo-West Pacific gobiid genus *Caragobius* Smith and Seale is revised and defined. *Caragobius* has been frequently considered a synonym of *Brachyamblyopus*; however, *Caragobius* is unique within the Amblyopinae in having: 3–7 (typically 4–6) anal-fin pterygiophores anterior to first hemal spine; fifth hypural absent; and ribs lacking on 3rd precaudal vertebra. *Caragobius* comprises two species: *C. rubristriatus*, known from northern Australia, and *C. urolepis*, known from India, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, and Fiji. Images of both species are provided. *Caragobius* is compared to *Brachyamblyopus* and Trypauchen-Group members.

Key words: Amblyopinae, Gobiidae, Trypauchen Group, *Caragobius*

Introduction

Caragobius typhlops was described as a new genus and species by Smith and Seale (1906) from five specimens collected from the Rio Grande near Cotabato, Mindanao, Philippines. Smith and Seale's description of *Caragobius* was rather unremarkable except that they mentioned their specimens possessed "a small pore above each gill-opening which opens into a cavity separate from gill-cavity"; among gobioid fishes, this character is unique to *Amblyotrypauchen*, *Ctenotrypauchen*, *Trypauchen*, and *Trypauchenichthys* [members of the Trypauchen Group of Murdy (2002) as modified from Birdsong et al. (1988)]. Smith and Seale (1906) did state that *Caragobius* was related to *Trypauchen* but differed in "squamation, teeth, eyes, etc."

Herre (1927) examined Smith and Seale's specimens of *Caragobius typhlops* and determined that the pore above the gill cavity [shallow pouch along the dorsal edge of the operculum] was not present in any of the specimens. Herre (1927) surmised that Smith