



Taxonomic status of *Parapercis elongata* (Teleostei: Pinguipedidae), with comments on its authorship

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Abstract

The validity and authorship of *Parapercis elongata* are discussed. Although Fourmanoir (1967) has been considered to be the author of *P. elongata*, Fourmanoir (1965) satisfies the nomenclatural requirements associated with the availability of species names and *P. elongata* Fourmanoir, 1965 has priority over *P. elongata* of Fourmanoir, 1967. Although the holotype of *P. elongata* was not able to be conclusively determined, no significant differences were recognized between the original description of *P. elongata* and the holotype and non-types of *Parapercis alboguttata* (Günther, 1872). Accordingly, *P. elongata* Fourmanoir, 1965 is determined to be a junior synonym of *P. alboguttata*.

Key words: *Parapercis elongata*; *Parapercis alboguttata*; synonym; nomenclature

Introduction

The pinguipedid *Parapercis elongata* has been considered to be originally described by Fourmanoir (1967) based on the specimens collected from Nha-Trang, Vietnam, South China Sea. However, it is demonstrated in this study that the authorship of *P. elongata* should be attributed to Fourmanoir (1965). Fourmanoir (1965) designated the holotype of *P. elongata*, but he did not quote a catalog number. Eschmeyer (1998) also did not provide a catalog number for the holotype.

Randall (2001) formulated a key to species of pinguipedids occurring in the southwestern Pacific and regarded *P. elongata* as a valid species. Prokofiev (2008) examined a specimen labeled as “*Parapercis elongata* sp. nov., no. 45283” deposited at the Institute of Oceanography, Nha-Trang and identified the specimen as *Parapercis alboguttata* (Günther, 1872). He found inconsistencies between the specimen and the description of *P. elongata* by Fourmanoir (1967), speculated that the true holotype of this species may have been lost, but provisionally regarded *P. elongata* as a valid species. Although Fourmanoir (1967) reported *P. elongata* as common in Nha-Trang Bay, this species has not been recorded after the original description (Randall, 2001; Prokofiev, 2008). In this study we clarify the taxonomic status of *P. elongata*.

Materials and methods

Counts and measurements were made according to Imamura & Yoshino (2007). Standard and head lengths are abbreviated as SL and HL, respectively. The institutional abbreviations follow Eschmeyer (1998), except for Hokkaido University Museum, Hakodate (HUMZ), National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba (NSMT), and Department of Marine Sciences, University of the Ryukyus (specimens from the latter now deposited at Ocean Expo. Research Center, Okinawa) (URM).