



***Eviota nigrispina*, a New Goby from the Ryukyu Islands, Japan (Teleostei: Gobiidae)**

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Abstract

A new species of goby, *Eviota nigrispina*, is described from the Ryukyu Islands Japan. The species belongs to cephalic sensory-pore pattern group 2 of Lachner and Karnella (1980), has an 8/7 dorsal/anal formula, unbranched pectoral-fin rays. It has a distinct black stripe running along the backbone in live or freshly caught fish, and strong black pigment along scale pockets on the ventral half of the sides when preserved.

Key words: Ichthyology, systematics, Gobiidae, *Eviota*, new species, Japan

Introduction

For a number of years the second author has been collecting specimens of the tiny gobiid genus *Eviota* from Japan. Many of these species were illustrated in the photographic guide to gobioid fishes in Japan (Senou *et al.*, 2004), including several undescribed species. One of these species, referred to as *Eviota* sp. 2, is described here.

Material and methods

Counts and measurements, descriptions of fin morphology and the cephalic sensory-canal pore patterns follow Lachner and Karnella (1980). Measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm using an ocular micrometer and dial calipers, and are presented as percentage of Standard Length (SL). Cyanine Blue 5R (acid blue 113) stain was used to make pores more obvious (Akihito *et al.*, 1993; Saruwatari *et al.*, 1997; Akihito *et al.*, 2002). Values for the holotype are given first, followed by the range for all types, and by the mean, where appropriate, in parentheses. Type material has been deposited at CAS—California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; OMNH—Osaka Museum of Natural History, Osaka, Japan.

***Eviota nigrispina* n. sp.**

Blackspine Pygmygoby

Japanese name—Nadeshiko-isohaze

(Figs. 1–5)

Eviota pellucida (non Larson). Hayasi & Shiratori, 2003: 57, figs. 105–106.

Eviota sp. 2. Senou *et al.*, 2004: 142 (underwater photograph, Iriomote-jima Island, the Ryukyu Islands, Japan, 6 m depth).