



Two new gurnards of the genus *Pterygotrigla* (Scorpaeniformes: Triglidae) from Australian seas

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Abstract

In recent years there has been considerable research activity devoted to the triglid fauna of Australia, and included within this work has been an investigation of the genus *Pterygotrigla*. This fauna is considered to be amongst the most diverse of any region and multiple undescribed taxa occur in these seas. Two new species belonging to the subgenus *Pterygotrigla* are described from northern Australia. *Pterygotrigla* (*Pterygotrigla*) *gomoni* **sp. nov.** occurs in the eastern Indian Ocean on the upper continental slope off Western Australia, and *P. (Pterygotrigla)* *saumarez* **sp. nov.** occurs in the south-west Pacific on the outer continental shelf and upper slope off central and southern Queensland. These species differ markedly from each other in morphology, and are distinguished from other members of the subgenus by a combination of morphometrics, meristics, morphology of the head (in particular elements of its spination), shape and distribution of the dorsal-fin bucklers, and pectoral-fin coloration.

Key words: *Pterygotrigla*, Scorpaeniformes, Triglidae, gurnards, new species, Australian seas

Introduction

The triglid genus *Pterygotrigla* reaches its greatest diversity in Australian seas. The group, which is wide ranging in the Indo–Pacific, has been subdivided into two subgenera, *Otohime*, and *Pterygotrigla* (Richards & Jones, 2002), with a third subgenus, *Parapterygotrigla*, under review by Richards and Yato. *Pterygotrigla* (*Otohime*) was revised recently by Richards *et al.* (2003) and presently contains 11 described species: *P. amaokai* Richards, Yato & Last 2003, *P. arabica* (Boulenger 1888), *P. draiggoch* Richards, Yato & Last 2003, and *P. elicryste* Richards, Yato & Last 2003, *P. hafizi* Richards, Yato & Last 2003, *P. hemisticta* (Temminck & Schlegel 1843), *P. multipunctata* Yato & Yamakawa 1983, *P. soela* Richards, Yato & Last 2003, *P. spirai* Golani & Baranes 1997, *P. tagala* (Herre & Kauffman 1952) and *P. urashimai* Richards, Yato & Last 2003. In a summary of the triglid fauna of the Western Central Pacific, Richards (1999) reported 7 species of *Pterygotrigla* from tropical Australia and soon after Paxton *et al.* (2006) listed 11 species from the entire region. All major collections of Australian triglids were examined in detail by the authors as part of a continuing revision of the Indo–Pacific fauna (led by W. Richards), and for a bioregionalisation of the Australian marine domain based on fish datasets (Last *et al.*, 2005). Sixteen nominal species are now known to occur in the region of which 4 belong to the subgenus *Otohime*: *Pterygotrigla draiggoch*, *P. elicryste*, *P. hemisticta* and *P. soela*, and 5 species that are currently ascribed to *Parapterygotrigla*: *P. hoplites* (Fowler 1938), *P. macrorhynchus* Kamohara 1936, *P. megalops* (Fowler 1938), *P. multiocellata* (Matsubara 1937), and *P. robertsi* del Cerro & Lloris 1997. The subgenus *Pterygotrigla* contains 4 nominal taxa: *Pterygotrigla andertoni* Waite 1910, *P. pauli* Hardy 1982, *P. polyommata* (Richardson 1839), and *P. ryukyuensis* Matsubara & Hiyama 1932; and three undescribed taxa. Two of these are described herein and the third species will be described in another paper by W. Richards and T. Yato.