



Redescription of *Parapercis rufa* Randall, 2001, a replacement name for *P. rosea* Fourmanoir, 1985, based on specimens newly collected from southern Taiwan

HSUAN-CHING HO^{1,3} & ROMAIN CAUSSE²

¹National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium; Institute of Marine Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology, National Dong Hwa University; No. 2, Houwan Rd., Checheng, Pingtung, 944 Taiwan

²Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Département des Milieux et Peuplements aquatiques, 43 rue Cuvier, 75231 Paris cedex 05, France

³Corresponding author. E-mail: ogcoho@gmail.com

Abstract

The red sandperch *Parapercis rufa* Randall, 2001 is redescribed on the basis of three specimens newly collected from Taiwan that represent the second record of the species and first record from Taiwan. The species is now redefined as a species of *Parapercis* with a large black spot with whitish rim above the pectoral-fin base, upper lobe of caudal fin with a prolongation extending about 1.0–1.5 times orbital diameter posterior to rear fin margin, and a combination of coloration and morphometric and meristic data.

Key words: Pisces, Teleostei, *Parapercis rosea*, *Parapercis rufa*, taxonomy, Taiwan

Introduction

The red sandperch *Parapercis rufa* Randall, 2001 is one of the most poorly known species within the pinguipedid sandperch genus *Parapercis*. Fourmanoir (1985) described *Parapercis rosea* based on four specimens collected from the Philippines. The original description contains mostly non-diagnostic characters, except for the description of a relatively unique coloration based on a fine drawing.

Randall (2001) noticed that the name was secondarily preoccupied in *Parapercis* by *Percis rosea* Sauvage, 1891 (= *Parapercis punctulata*) and was subjectively invalid. He proposed *Parapercis rufa* to replace *Parapercis rosea* Fourmanoir, 1985, however, no additional information was provided, except for some characters in the key which may have been adapted from the original description.

Recently, three specimens of a *Parapercis* form were collected by hook and line from off Maobitou, the southern tip of Taiwan, at depths between 50–80 m. These specimens were formerly recognized as a new species due to a unique coloration and combination of characters. However, after comparing them with the original description, they are considered to be conspecific with *Parapercis rosea* Fourmanoir, 1985 (= *P. rufa*). With this suspicion, the holotype (MNHN 1984–0431) and two paratypes (MNHN 1984–0432) of *Parapercis rosea* were examined by the second author, which confirmed that the three Taiwanese specimens belonged to the same species.

The purpose of this paper is to redescribe and redefine *Parapercis rufa* Randall, 2001, previously described as *Parapercis rosea* Fourmanoir, 1985.

Materials and methods

Specimens for this study are housed at National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium, Pingtung, Taiwan (NMMB-P). Methods for taking measurements and counts followed Randall et al. (2008), except for the caudal-fin length which is measured in two lengths, one with prolongation and one without. The holotype (MNHN 1984-