



## A new grenadier of the genus *Nezumia* (Pisces: Gadiformes: Macrouridae) from southern Japan

NAOHIDE NAKAYAMA<sup>1</sup> & HIROMITSU ENDO<sup>2</sup>

Laboratory of Marine Biology, Faculty of Science, Kochi University, 2-5-1 Akebono-cho, Kochi 780-8520, Japan.

E-mail: <sup>1</sup>b10d6a03@s.kochi-u.ac.jp; <sup>2</sup>endoh@kochi-u.ac.jp

### Abstract

A new grenadier, *Nezumia shinoharai*, is described based on two specimens collected from the continental slope off the Pacific coast of southern Japan, at depths of 627–700 m. The new species is clearly distinguished from all other congeners by the following combination of characters: pelvic fin rays 10; spinules on body scales needlelike, arranged in discrete parallel rows; underside of head almost completely naked with prominent sensory pores; teeth in broad cardiform bands in both jaws; snout long (31–34% HL), conically pointed, protruding well beyond upper jaw; first dorsal fin uniformly dark with pale distal tip, second spinous ray not extremely elongated (height of first dorsal fin about equal to HL); no dark band encircling trunk.

**Key words:** *Nezumia shinoharai* sp. nov., taxonomy, deep-sea fish, northwestern Pacific

### Introduction

Grenadiers of the genus *Nezumia* contains more than 40 species mainly inhabiting the continental slope, seamounts, and ridges in tropical and temperate waters of the world oceans (Iwamoto, 1990; Sazonov and Iwamoto, 1992; Wilson, 2001). Several species previously treated as *Nezumia* were subsequently transferred to other genera, *Kuronezumia* and *Kumba* (Sazonov and Iwamoto, 1992; Iwamoto and Sazonov, 1994). *Nezumia* is currently characterized by the following features: branchiostegal rays 7; anus closer to pelvic fin bases than to anal fin origin; a small dermal window of light organ lying between pelvic fin bases; tip and lateral angles of snout armed with prominent scutes; suborbital shelf formed of coarsely modified scales; second spinous ray of first dorsal fin serrated along leading edge (Sazonov and Iwamoto, 1992; Iwamoto and Merrett, 1997; Iwamoto and Williams, 1999; Iwamoto and Graham, 2001).

During our ongoing study of Japanese grenadiers, a small specimen of *Nezumia* collected from Tosa Bay, Shikoku, at a depth of 700 m, was found among the ichthyological collection of the Laboratory of Marine Biology, Faculty of Science, Kochi University (BSKU). The specimen is in relatively poor condition with almost all body scales missing and tip of first dorsal fin broken. Although it was chiefly recognized as an undescribed species by the combination of naked area on underside of head, spinulation on body scales, and several meristic and morphometric characters, we were reluctant to describe it until more or better material become available. In February 2010, a workshop was held at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo (NSMT) to identify and register a large collection of deep-sea fishes collected around Japan and recently transferred from the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Shizuoka (FSFL) and the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, the University of Tokyo, Chiba (AORI). During the workshop, the first author found another well-preserved specimen of the undescribed *Nezumia* collected from east of Boso Peninsula, Honshu, at a depth of 627–673 m. The purpose of this paper is to describe the two specimens as representatives of a new species.