



***Paracaesio brevidentata* n. sp., a new snapper (Lutjanidae: Apsilinae) from Indonesia**

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Abstract

Paracaesio brevidentata, a new species of apsiline lutjanid fish from southeastern Indonesia, is described, bringing the total number of known species in this deepwater snapper genus to nine. The new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: very small teeth in jaws without enlarged canines, tubular lateral-line scales 71–73, pectoral-fin rays 18 or 19, caudal fin deeply forked, penultimate rays of soft dorsal and anal fins not longer than adjacent rays, snout short, maxilla scaly and body purplish brown and caudal fin reddish with upper and lower lobes similar in colour. Members of the genus are distinguished in a key. A specimen of *Paracaesio caerulea* from southeastern Indonesia represents the first record of this species from Indonesian waters.

Key words: *Paracaesio*, Lutjanidae, new species, new distribution record, Indonesia, Lombok

Introduction

The apsiline genus *Paracaesio* Bleeker, 1875 belongs to one of four subfamilies of lutjanid fishes, collectively known as snappers. The subfamily Apsilinae contains three other genera, *Parapristipomoides* (monotypic, Pacific), *Lipocheilus* (monotypic, Indo–West Pacific), and *Apsilus* (two species, Atlantic) (Johnson, 1980). The apsiline snappers are distinguished from the other lutjanid subfamilies, Etelinae, Lutjaninae and Paradicichthyinae, by the following combination of characters: D X, 10 (rarely 9), A III, 8, dorsal and anal fins without scales and without a produced last ray, vomerine teeth present, nostrils closely spaced with the posterior flap of the anterior nostril usually reaching the posterior nostril, procurvent caudal-fin rays 11–13 dorsally and 10–13 ventrally, and interorbital somewhat flattened to strongly convex (Johnson, 1980; Anderson, 1987).

Members of the genus *Paracaesio* are distinguished from other apsiline fishes in the following combination of characters: interorbital region strongly convex, no thick fleshy protrusion at the anterior end of upper lip, gill rakers 7–12 + 16–24 (total 26–35), pectoral fin 90–125% of head length, premaxillae protractile, dorsal fin continuous and not deeply incised at junction of spinous and soft portions, and 15–18 pectoral-fin rays (Anderson, 1987; Anderson *et al.*, 1992). This genus contains at least nine valid species, i.e. *P. caerulea* (Katayama, 1934), *P. gonzalesi* Fourmanoir & Rivaton, 1979, *P. kusakarii* Abe, 1960, *P. paragrapsimodon* Anderson & Kailola, 1992 (*in* Anderson *et al.*, 1992), *P. sordida* Abe & Shinohara, 1962, *P. stonei* Raj & Seeto, 1983, *P. waltervadi* Anderson & Collette, 1992 (*in* Anderson *et al.*, 1992), *P. xanthura* (Bleeker, 1869) and a new species described herein. Although *P. pedleyi* McCulloch & Waite, 1916 is currently considered a junior synonym of *P. xanthura*, Anderson *et al.* (1992) stated that they were uncertain of its status and further investigation is required to assess its validity. These species have distributions variously within the Indo-Pacific where they typically occur over deeper reefs from 100 to 320 m depth, with the exception of *P. sordida*, *P. waltervadi* and *P. xanthura* which are also found in much shallower waters.

Recent surveys of fish markets in southern Indonesia, with the aim of producing a guide to the market-caught fishes of southern Indonesia, led to the collection of a diverse assemblage of deepwater line-caught teleost species.