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## Putative type specimens of *Satyrichthys* (Scorpaeniformes: Peristediidae) in the Bleeker collection of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

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### Abstract

The presumed type status of the two remaining specimens of *Peristedion moluccense* Bleeker 1850 in the collection the Naturalis Biodiversity Center was examined by comparing them to descriptions in two Bleeker papers and an unpublished manuscript by Bleeker written for the Atlas Ichthyologique. Latin, French and Dutch parts of these papers were translated into English. The Dutch description of *P. laticeps* Schlegel 1852 was also translated. In the course of this study it became clear why Bleeker considered *P. laticeps*, a as a synonym of *P. moluccense*.

**Key words:** *Peristedion moluccense*, *P. laticeps*, *P. orientale*, *Trigla brandesii*, Atlas Ichthyologique, RMNH collection

### Introduction

A request for photographs of the syntypes of *Peristedion moluccense* Bleeker 1850 (not 1851, see Kottelat 2011), was the start of a search for all Bleeker material of this species in the collection of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center (formerly Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, RMNH). Data on the specimens were taken from Bleeker's publications. As recent papers have shown Bleeker often reveals important information on his type specimens in the Dutch remarks preceding or following his descriptions (van Oijen *et al.* 2009; van Oijen & Loots 2012), these remarks were also translated for this study.

The description of *P. moluccense* Bleeker (1850) was based on four badly preserved specimens (see below). Presumably because of the condition of the specimens the description was not illustrated. When Bleeker (1856a) published a re-description of the species mainly based on an additional well preserved specimen; again no figure was included. The absence of an image of the species both in the original description and the re-description is very unfortunate as the species was not included in the published volumes of Bleeker's *Atlas Ichthyologique des Indes Orientales Néerlandaises* (Bleeker 1862-1877). Bleeker had prepared the largest part of the manuscript including figures for Vol. XI of the *Atlas* that included the Trigoidei. In 1927 the manuscript for this volume was completed and prepared for printing by the then RMNH Curator of Fishes, Dr Canna M. L. Popta. Unfortunately it was never printed. The manuscript was, however, preserved in the RMNH archive.

Like the other parts of the *Atlas*, Bleeker's unpublished manuscript is written in Latin and French. An English translation of the relevant part with the description and Bleeker's synonymy of *P. moluccense* is given below. In the translation no corrections were made with regard to Bleeker's rather haphazard use of italics in Latin species names.

Bleeker's re-descriptions of *P. moluccense* (1856a; unpublished) were based on five specimens; the four syntypes from the Banda Islands and one specimen from Ambon Island. However, at the auction of the Bleeker collection (1879) there were only two specimens in the jar of *P. moluccense* (Hubrecht 1879: 10). The jar was in the "A" collection, a selection of the Bleeker collection supposed to contain all types (Hubrecht 1879: iii). The "A" collection was bought by the Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie.