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Redescription of *Parapercis okamurai* Kamohara, 1960 (Perciformes: Pinguipedidae), based on specimens newly collected from Taiwan and Japan

HSUAN-CHING HO^{1,2,3}

¹National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium, Pingtung, Taiwan. E-mail: hohc@nmmba.gov.tw

²Institute of Marine Biodiversity & Evolutionary Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Pingtung, Taiwan

³Hokkaido University Museum, Hokkaido university, Hakodate, Japan

Abstract

A rare species of sandperch, *Parapercis okamurai*, is redescribed based on 2 types and 15 specimens newly collected from Taiwan and Japan. The species is unique in having cycloid scales on the parietal, opercle and subopercle, except for few large ctenoid scale that covers the base of the opercular spine; body color yellowish dorsally, with 10 or 11 faint yellow bands on lateral body and pale ventrally; and black spots on inner side of upper pectoral fin base. It can also be distinguished from congeners by having a combination of the following characters: dorsal-fin rays V, 23; anal-fin rays I, 19; pectoral-fin rays 18; pored lateral-line scales 59–64; medial predorsal scales 9–10; transverse scale rows 4.5–5.5/14–15; circumpeduncular scales 20–21; gill raker 4–5+9–10=13–16; 4 pairs of canine teeth at front of lower jaw; 2–4 rows of teeth on vomer; 2 rows of teeth on palatines; scales on cheek moderately large, each half embedded; and body color yellowish dorsally and a prominent ocellus at upper caudal-fin base.

Key words: Pisces, taxonomy, sandperch, *Parapercis okamurai*

Introduction

Kamohara (1960) reviewed the sandperch family Parapercidae (=Pinguipedidae) from Japan and described a new species *Parapercis okamurai* based on two specimens collected from the Mimase fish market by Osamu Okamura and Kunio Amoaka. The type specimens were evidently trawled in Tosa Bay near Kochi Prefecture. Although this species was mentioned by several authors (Okamura in Masuda *et al.*, 1984, Nakabo, 2000, Shinohara *et al.*, 2001), no additional information was added, except for Okamura in Masuda *et al.* (1984:229), who was collector of the type series, noted the appearance of "10 reddish cross-bands on side of body".

Recently the author collected 14 yellowish specimens from Taiwan (trawled off northeastern Taiwan and Diaoyu-tai Islands) and in a visit to the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, the author found an additional specimen collected from off Izu Islands, southern Japan. All of these specimens are recognized in this study as the rare species, *P. okamurai*. Examination of the types specimens of *P. okamurai* also confirm the identification of these newly considered specimens.

Weber (1913) described *Neopercis striolata* (= *Parapercis striolata*) based on a single specimen collected from Indonesia (ZMA 112463). Kamohara (1937) described a similar species, *Neopercis mimaseana* (= *Parapercis mimaseana*) based on a single specimen collected from Mimase fish market, southern Japan. He separated *P. mimaseana* from *P. striolata* by the covering of cycloid scales on the chest and abdomen and a relatively short snout versus ctenoid scales on these areas, and a longer snout in *N. striolata*. The holotype of *P. mimaseana* has been lost and a neotype was selected subsequently (Kamohara, 1961), which should not be recognized as valid according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999). Randall *et al.* (2008) proposed that these two species are conspecific.

Parapercis okamurai is closely similar to *P. striolata* and *P. moki* by sharing similar meristic values and several morphological features. A detailed description is provided, which includes new information regarding coloration.

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