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***Satyrichthys kikingeri* Pogoreutz, Vitecek & Ahnelt, 2013, a junior synonym of *Satyrichthys laticeps* (Schlegel, 1852) (Actinopterygii: Teleostei: Peristediidae)**

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Abstract

Satyrichthys kikingeri Pogoreutz, Vitecek & Ahnelt, 2013 was described as a new species based on a single dried specimen from the Maldives, Indian Ocean. Although this species was considered to differ from the most similar species of the genus, *S. laticeps* (Schlegel, 1852), by numbers of barbels and anal fin rays, and several morphometric characters, it is clear that both species are inseparable as these characters were misinterpreted in the holotype in the original description of *S. kikingeri*. Therefore, *S. kikingeri* is a junior synonym of *S. laticeps*.

Key words: armored searobins, synonymy, deep waters, Maldives, Indian Ocean

Introduction

Armored searobins of the Indo-Pacific genus *Satyrichthys* Kaup, 1873 (family Peristediidae) are characterized by their lack of upper jaw teeth, possession of a smooth lateral margin of the head, posterior bony plates in the lower lateral rows separated on the ventral midline, no branched barbels on the lower jaw except for the posteriormost lip and chin barbels, and fewer than 20 soft rays in the dorsal and anal fins (Kawai 2008, 2013). *Satyrichthys* was revised by Kawai (2013) who found seven valid species, *S. moluccensis* (Bleeker, 1850), *S. laticeps* (Schlegel, 1852) (Fig. 1A, C), *S. rieffeli* (Kaup, 1859), *S. welchi* (Herre, 1925), *S. clavilapis* Fowler, 1938, *S. longiceps* (Fowler, 1943), and *S. milleri* Kawai, 2013. Subsequently, *Satyrichthys kikingeri* Pogoreutz, Vitecek & Ahnelt, 2013 was described as a new species based on a single dried specimen (Fig. 1B, D) from the Maldives, Indian Ocean, bringing the number of species in the genus to eight. Although *S. kikingeri* is similar to *S. laticeps* in having the parietal bones of both sides differing in size, *S. kikingeri* was distinguished from *S. laticeps* by the numbers of lip [3 in the former vs 3–5 (mostly 4) in the latter] and chin (0–1 vs 2–5) barbels, and anal fin rays (13 vs 14–17), and proportional body width (23.2% SL vs 12.4–20.3% SL), distance from snout to anus (58.8% SL vs 46.2–53.6% SL), and caudal peduncle depth (4.2% SL vs 2.2–3.4% SL) (Pogoreutz *et al.* 2013).

Material and methods

Counts and measurements follow Kawai *et al.* (2004). Standard length is abbreviated as SL. Measurements were made with a digital caliper and tape measure. Specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, UK (BMNH), Faculty of Science, Kochi University, Kochi, Japan (BSKU), Hokkaido University Museum, Hakodate, Japan (HUMZ), Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria (NMW), National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, Japan (NSMT), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherland (RMNH), Museum Support Center, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Suitland, MD, USA (USNM), and Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India (ZSI).

Material examined. *Satyrichthys laticeps* (54 specimens, 89.0–ca. 550 mm SL): NMW 96546 (dry) (ca. 420 mm SL), holotype of *Satyrichthys kikingeri*, Madivaru Channel, Rasdhoo Atoll, Maldives Archipelago

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