



A new species of *Gorogobius* (Perciformes: Gobiidae) from São Tomé Islands

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Abstract

Gorogobius stevcici **sp. nov.** is described from the São Tomé Islands, Gulf of Guinea. Although it exhibits the unique combination of characters of *Gorogobius* Miller, it differs from present generic diagnosis of that genus. Therefore, a revised generic diagnosis and description of *Gorogobius* is provided. The new species differs from its only congener, *G. nigricintus*, by (1) presence of pore β ; (2) row *g* anteriorly ends more or less in front of row *o*; (3) transverse interorbital row *p* present; (4) snout with four median preorbital rows; (5) 37–41 vs. 29–33 longitudinal scale rows; (6) 22–24 vs. 18 predorsal scales; (7) 9 vs. 10–11 anal fin rays; (8) 17 vs. 18–20 pectoral fin rays; (9) coloration.

Key words: Gobiidae, *Gorogobius stevcici*, new species, São Tomé

Introduction

Delais (1951), in his work on gobies from the collection of the Laboratoire de Biologie marine de l'I.F.A.N. on Gorée (Senegal), described a small and strikingly striped goby from Senegal and Guinea as *Gobius nigricintus*. Later, Miller & El-Tawil (1974) redefined the genus *Gobius*, which no longer encompassed the striped species. Therefore, Miller (1978) redescribed it and placed it in a newly erected genus, *Gorogobius*. *Gorogobius* is characterized by a unique combination of rows of sensory papillae, reduction of head canals and cheek squamation. Recently, five specimens of an undescribed gobiid species were discovered by P. Wirtz at São Tomé Islands, Gulf of Guinea in August 2002 and deposited in the ichthyological collection of Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart (SMNS). This species is herein described as new. Although it exhibits several diagnostic characters of *Gorogobius* Miller, it differs from the original generic diagnosis of *Gorogobius* in others. We place the new species in *Gorogobius*, rather than erecting a new genus. Consequently, we provide a revised generic diagnosis and description of *Gorogobius* in order to accommodate both *G. nigricintus* and the new species.

Methods

If not otherwise mentioned, morphometric and meristic methods follow Miller (1988); however, in several cases the exact way of measuring is not described in Miller (1988), which is the reason that we provide additional explanations for some measurements here: cheek depth is measured at the lower border of eye to posterior point of jaws angle; caudal peduncle length is measured from the vertical through the end of the anal fin base to the origin of the middle rays of the caudal fin; caudal peduncle depth is the minimum depth; eye diameter is measured horizontally (just eyeball without skin ridge around eye); head length is measured from the