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A new species of the flathead genus *Onigocia* (Teleostei: Platycephalidae) collected from the Coral and Tasman Seas

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Abstract

A new species of platycephalid, *Onigocia lacrimalis*, is described on the basis of specimens collected from the Chesterfield Islands (Coral Sea) and Norfolk Ridge (Tasman Sea), at depths of 111–330 m. *Onigocia lacrimalis* differs from the six congeners of the genus in having 12–13 (usually 12) second dorsal-fin rays, 12 anal-fin rays, 21–25 pectoral-fin rays, 8 branched caudal-fin rays, anterior 2–4 scales of the lateral line with a spine, and a single preocular spine, and in lacking gill rakers on the upper arch, ocular and interopercular flaps, and distinct antrorse lachrymal spines.

Key words: *Onigocia lacrimalis* **sp. nov.**, Platycephalidae, Coral Sea, Tasman Sea

Introduction

When visiting at the Australian Museum, Sydney, in 2006, Imamura found a single specimen of a platycephalid collected from Norfork Ridge, Tasman Sea. This specimen belongs to the genus *Onigocia* Jordan and Thompson, 1913, in having a serrated suborbital ridge, lateral-line scales fewer than 40, with two exterior sensory openings posteriorly, and skinny sensory tubes on the cheek region well developed (see Imamura, 1996). However, its meristic counts do not fit those in the six known valid species of the genus. In addition, the specimen lacks distinct antrorse lachrymal spines. Such a character is not recognized in the other members of *Onigocia* and it was concluded that this specimen represents an undescribed species. Later, additional specimens of the new species, collected from Chesterfield Islands, Coral Sea, were found by authors in the fish collection of Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. The new species of *Onigocia* is described in this study.

Material and methods

Counts and measurements were made according to Hubbs and Lagler (1958) and were routinely taken from the left side, while gill rakers were counted on the right side. A small first dorsal spine was expressed by using plus sign. Measurements were made with calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm accuracy. Terminology of head spines follows Knapp *et al.* (2000). Institutional acronyms are from Leviton *et al.* (1985), except for the Natural History Museum (BMNH), the Hokkaido University Museum (HUMZ), National Institute of Coastal Aquaculture, Thailand (NICA), the National Museum of nature and Science (NSMT), Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba (CMNH) and South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB). Standard and head lengths are abbreviated as SL and HL, respectively.

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