



Two new Indo-Pacific species in the *Eviota nigriventris* complex (Teleostei: Gobiidae)

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Abstract

Three species are recognized in the *Eviota nigriventris* complex, two of them new. *Eviota nigriventris* Giltay is a species with a red ventral band, edged dorsally with a narrow white line, the ventral band ending in an asymmetrical black mark at the caudal-fin base; *E. dorsopurpurea* n. sp. is a species with a purple back and head and a black ventral band ending in a semi-circular spot; and *E. dorsogilva* n. sp. is a species with a black to dark reddish ventral band ending in a semi-circular spot and has a cream-colored back. *Eviota dorsogilva* and *E. dorsopurpurea* also differ in counts, pectoral-fin base coloration and eye size.

Key words: Teleostei, Gobiidae, *Eviota*, new species, systematics, coloration

Introduction

Eviota nigriventris was described by Giltay (1933) from small islands in the Banda Sea without any information on the color in life. In their review of the genus *Eviota*, Lachner and Karnella (1980) also did not provide any information on the life color. Yoshino and Shimada (1984) in Masuda *et al.* (1984: 244, pl. 237-J) appear to be the first to illustrate this species in color. K. Shimada's photo of a 2.5 cm specimen has a broad red stripe from the eye to the base of the lower half of the caudal fin, where it ends in a semi-circular black spot; the body above the stripe, and the head and abdomen below are white; the snout is orangish, and there is a white line in the upper part of the eye that extends a short distance posteriorly. They gave the range as western Pacific northward to the Yaeyama Islands in Japan. Several other authors have published similar photographs with the broad red stripe on the ventral half of the body varying in the degree of black pigment present and other minor differences [Madusa and Kobayashi, (1994), Okamura and Amaoka (1997: 590), Hayashi and Shiratori (2003: 56), Senou *et al.* (2004: 139)]. We illustrate here the red form taken at Kimbe Bay, New Britain (Fig.1). As explained below, we consider this red form to be *E. nigriventris*.

Allen *et al.* (2003: 320) provided two color figures as *Eviota nigriventris*, one with the typical bright red stripe, bordered in white above and grading to black on the snout and posteriorly, the other regarded as the juvenile with a solid black stripe, a broader white border above, and purple dorsally and ventrally. Gerald R. Allen (pers. comm.) provided the localities of the two figures as Kimbe Bay, New Britain and Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, respectively. Theirs is the first illustration of the purple form that we consider an undescribed species (*E. dorsopurpurea*) in this paper. We add three additional photographs of the purple fish (Figs. 2–4).

Randall (2005: 532) published an underwater color photo of a live individual from Papua New Guinea (reproduced here as our Fig.5) with the broad black stripe continuous to the caudal-fin base, but becoming red on the anterior suborbital region and chin. There is no white border above the stripe and no white lines on the head. The upper margin of the black stripe is only diffusely distinct from the yellowish cream color dorsally on the body. A