

Revision of the generic classification of the hawkfishes (Cirrhitidae), with descriptions of three new genera

JOHN E. RANDALL

Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, HI 96817-2704, USA

Abstract

Three new monotypic genera of cirrhitid fishes are described from species formerly placed in the genus *Cirrhitus*: *Cristacirrhitus*, type species *Cirrhitus punctatus* Cuvier from Mauritius, Madagascar, and Natal, South Africa; *Notocirrhitus*, type species *Cirrhitus splendens* (Ogilby) from the southwestern Pacific; and *Itycirrhitus*, type species *Cirrhitus wilhelmi* Lavenberg & Yañez, from Easter Island and Pitcairn Island. The 33 species of Cirrhitidae are now classified in 12 genera. A revised key to the genera is presented.

Key words: hawkfishes, Cirrhitidae, new genera, revised key

Introduction

The perciform fish family Cirrhitidae is characterized by having 14 pectoral rays, the lower 5 to 7 unbranched and enlarged with the membranes deeply incised; a single dorsal fin of X spines and 11 to 17 soft rays, the fin notched between the spinous and soft portions; membrane at dorsal spine tips with one to several cirri; anal rays III,5-7; 15 principal caudal rays; pelvic rays I,5; opercular spines 2; a fringe of cirri on posterior edge of anterior nostril; margin of preopercle serrate, though often only on upper half (number of serrae increase with age); scales cycloid; gill membranes broadly joined, with a free fold across throat; no swimbladder; 6 branchiostegal rays; and 26 vertebrae. Except for the presence or absence of palatine teeth and except for the reduced size of the canines in the monotypic genus *Oxycirrhites*, the dentition is essentially the same for all species: an outer row of small incurved canines, the largest in upper jaw at the front, and the largest in the lower jaw as 2 to 4 recurved canines nearly half way back in jaw; a broad dense inner band of villiform teeth at front of jaws, continuing progressively narrower posteriorly in upper jaw; a narrow V-shaped band of small teeth on the vomer.