

***Odontamblyopus rebecca*, a new species of amblyopine goby from Vietnam with a key to known species of the genus (Gobiidae: Amblyopinae)**

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Abstract

A new species of amblyopine goby, *Odontamblyopus rebecca*, is described on the basis of 37 specimens from Vietnam. It differs from other species of *Odontamblyopus* by the following combination of characters: caudal vertebrae typically 20; dorsal fin with 44-48 total elements; anal fin with 37-42 total elements; and pectoral-fin ray count 40-51. This species is figured and compared with other known species of *Odontamblyopus*.

Key words: *Odontamblyopus*, Amblyopinae, Gobiidae, new species

Introduction

Gobies of the genus *Odontamblyopus* (Gobiidae: Amblyopinae) are given the vernacular name of eel gobies or worm gobies, which refers to their long and slender bodies. *Odontamblyopus* inhabits mud bottom habitats from the West Coast of India eastward to Japan. In their review of *Odontamblyopus*, Murdy and Shibukawa (2001) indicated that the genus comprised four species; they provided a key to species as well as a descriptive account of each. Recently, 37 specimens of an *Odontamblyopus* not fitting the key or descriptive accounts in Murdy and Shibukawa (2001) were collected from a fish market on the east side of Haiphong City, Vietnam. The objective of this paper is to describe this species as new and compare it with congeners.

Methods for counts and measurements follow Murdy and Shibukawa (2001). The methods of Birdsong et al. (1988) were used in describing the relationship between the spinous dorsal-fin pterygiophores and the underlying vertebrae. Institutional abbreviations are as listed in Leviton et al. (1985). Standard length (SL) is used throughout.