

A revision of the gobiid fish genus *Trypauchen* (Gobiidae: Amblyopinae)

EDWARD O. MURDY

National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230, USA

Abstract

The Indo-West Pacific gobiid genus *Trypauchen* is diagnosed and revised. *Trypauchen* is unique within the Amblyopinae in having the following combination of characters: 1) typically four, rarely three, anal-fin pterygiophores anterior to the first hemal spine; 2) pelvic fins small, united, and funnel-shaped with a well-developed interradiated membrane; and 3) abdomen scaled. *Trypauchen* comprises two species: *T. pelaeos* n. sp., known from Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and China; and *T. vagina*, distributed from Kuwait, along the coasts of India, ranging eastward to the Philippines, Taiwan, and China. A key to species is provided. Figures and descriptions of each species are also given. Putative relationships of the genus are discussed.

Key words: Amblyopinae, Gobiidae, taxonomic revision, relationships

Introduction

Gobius vagina was described by Bloch and Schneider (1801) from a single specimen collected in Tranquebar, India. The original description was brief, but stated that an oval-shaped opening was present on the dorsal edge of the operculum. Because of this unusual, pouch-like structure at the dorsal margin of the operculum, Valenciennes *in* Cuvier and Valenciennes (1837) erected the genus *Trypauchen* [from the Greek *trypa* (hole) and *auchen* (neck)] for *Gobius vagina*. The function of the opercular pouch is not known, but this structure is only found in the following genera of Amblyopinae: *Amblyotrypauchen*, *Ctenotrypauchen*, *Trypauchen*, and *Trypauchenichthys*.

Trypauchen vagina is locally abundant in certain regions and is even used as a food source (Rainboth, 1996), but it has been little studied. However, records and brief descriptions of *T. vagina* are numerous: India (Day, 1878; Hora, 1924); Thailand (Fowler, 1935; H.M. Smith, 1945); Singapore (Larson and Lim, 2005); Mekong River (Rainboth, 1996); various parts of Indonesia (Bleeker, 1860; Kottelat *et al.*, 1993); China