



A new species of *Stiphodon* from southern Sumatra (Pisces: Gobioidae: Sicydiinae)

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Abstract

Stiphodon carisa, **n. sp.**, is described based on material collected in the southernmost watershed in Lampung Province, Sumatra, Indonesia. *Stiphodon carisa*, **n. sp.**, differs from all other congeners by a combination of characteristics that include having 9 second-dorsal fin rays; 15 pectoral-fin rays; 41–59 premaxillary teeth; predorsal scales sexually dimorphic in number, male with 5–11 and female with 8–16; 25–35 lateral scales; slightly embedded cycloid scales present on belly; male with a triangular-shaped first-dorsal fin with third and/or fourth spines longest but not filamentous and a patch of white fatty tissue posterior to pectoral-fin base; female usually with 5 (4–5) dusky to blackish blotches or spots along lateral midline from second-dorsal fin with usually 4 (3–4) posterior-most spots positioned close together on caudal peduncle, dusky band extending from anterior to eye to upper hypural base usually indistinct posterior to pectoral-fin base, with or without a dusky or black gular blotch; in some females xanthism exists which fades in preservation and in life yellow with orange to bright red markings. *Stiphodon semoni* is a species common in hill streams of eastern Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and is reported here for the first time from streams entering the Indian Ocean in Lampung Province, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Key words: Gobioidae, Sicydiinae, *Stiphodon*, new species, fresh water, Sumatra, xanthism

Introduction

For four decades in the twentieth century *Stiphodon* Weber, 1895 was regarded as a monotypic genus following Koumans (1953). By the end of the twentieth century many species had been described following detailed analysis and less reliance on superficial similarities (usually based on markings in females) that had previously resulted in most species being misidentified as *Stiphodon elegans* (Steindachner, 1880).

Stiphodon is comprised of many small to miniature freshwater gobies found in tropical island streams throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific. These animals are among the most colorful of all stream fishes. Previous research (Watson 1995) indicates that the females in all species of *Stiphodon* are similar in coloration and pattern but can be differentiated using gross morphology, counts and morphometrics.

This research describes a new species of *Stiphodon* collected from the southern tip of Sumatra. Among interesting aspects of the new species is the unique nature of color and pattern in females. The new species is compared with those species sharing similarities in color and pattern, morphology and/or geography. *Stiphodon semoni* Weber, 1895, the type species for *Stiphodon*, is reported here for the first time occurring in freshwater streams entering the Indian Ocean.

Methods and material

Methods follow Watson (1995, 1999). Counts and measurements were taken from the right side. Measurements were accomplished using a dial caliper taken to the nearest tenth of a millimeter (mm) and rounded to