



New observations on the genus *Hypocreadium* Ozaki, 1936 (Digenea: Lepocreadiidae) in the Indo-West Pacific region, including the description of one new species

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Abstract

The following members of the genus *Hypocreadium* are described or redescribed: *Hypocreadium cavum* from the starry triggerfish, *Abalistes stellatus*, Swain Reefs, Great Barrier Reef; *Hypocreadium patellare* 'Typical form' from *Abalistes stellatus*, Swain Reefs, the masked triggerfish, *Sufflamen fraenatum*, Ningaloo, Western Australia and off New Caledonia and the titan triggerfish, *Balistoides viridescens*, off Lizard Island, Great Barrier Reef; *Hypocreadium patellare* 'Atypical form A' from the black-bar triggerfish, *Rhinecanthus aculeatus*, off Lizard Island and Palau and blackbelly triggerfish, *R. verrucosus*, off Palau; *Hypocreadium patellare* 'Atypical form B' from the yellow-spotted triggerfish, *Pseudobalistes fuscus* off Lizard Island; *Hypocreadium picasso* n. sp. from *Rhinecanthus aculeatus*, off Lizard Island and Palau, characterised by its broadly pyriform shape and lack of an anterior notch. A key to the species of *Hypocreadium* is presented. The similarity of the genus *Lutianotrema* to *Hypocreadium* is pointed out, but both known species of *Lutianotrema* are described with 'dorsal' oral suckers.

Key words: Digenea, Lepocreadiidae, *Hypocreadium*, *Hypocreadium picasso* n. sp., *Lutianotrema*, Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo, Palau, New Caledonia, Tetraodontiformes, *Abalistes*, *Balistoides*, *Pseudobalistes*, *Rhinecanthus*, *Sufflamen*

Introduction

Hypocreadium Ozaki, 1936 constitutes a group of poorly-known species, characterised by their flattened, broadly oval to circular outline and parasitism in tetraodontid hosts. Another diagnostic character is the dorsally situated excretory pore, usually well anterior to the posterior extremity, between the caecal extremities. Bray & Cribb (1996) revised the genus, recognising 13 species: *Hypocreadium symmetrorchis* Ozaki, 1936 (type-species), *H. balistes* (Nagaty, 1942), *H. biminensis* (Sogandares-Bernal, 1959), *H. cavum* Bray & Cribb, 1996, *H. galapagoensis* (Manter, 1945), *H. grandisquamis* Bray & Cribb, 1996, *H. indicum* (Madhavi, 1972), *H. lactophrysi* (Nahhas & Cable, 1964), *H. lamelliforme* (Linton, 1907), *H. myohelicatum* Bravo-Hollis & Manter, 1957, *H. patellare* Yamaguti, 1938, *H. scaphosomum* (Manter, 1940) and *H. spinosum* (Manter, 1940). In this paper we recognise 15 species, including *H. toombo* Bray & Justine, 2006 and a new species.

Materials and methods

Digeneans collected from freshly killed fish were fixed by being pipetted into nearly boiling saline and immediately preserved in 5% formalin or 70% ethanol. Whole-mounts were stained with Mayer's