



***Parapercis randalli*, a new sandperch (Pisces: Pinguipedidae) from Southern Taiwan**

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Abstract

Parapercis randalli **sp. nov.** is described on the basis of four specimens collected in southern Taiwan by angling at a depth of 5–150 m. It differs from its congeners in having five broad reddish brown saddles on the dorsal surface; both jaws and anterior portion of snout reddish orange; a yellow bar with red margin on cheek; a series of 8 red bars below body axis; configuration of spots on head, dorsal and caudal fins; and a combination of morphological characters: three pairs of canine teeth anteriorly in lower jaw; no palatine teeth; vomerine teeth stout, in a single curved row; lateral-line scales 53; margin of preopercle smooth; 4th dorsal spine longest; caudal fin slightly rounded on ventral half, truncate on dorsal half, with a prolonged upper lobe; appressed pelvic fin extends beyond anus. A total of 21 valid pinguipedid species are now recorded from Taiwanese waters.

Key words: taxonomy, Pisces, new species, *Parapercis randalli*

Introduction

The sandperch family Pinguipedidae comprises 7 genera and 78 valid species. Sixteen new species of *Parapercis* have been described in the past 5 years (Johnson, 2006; Randall & Yamakawa, 2006; Imamura & Yoshino, 2007; Randall, 2008; Randall *et al.*, 2008), bringing the total number to 70 in the genus. The number of newly discovered species in the genus is showing no sign of decline (Randall *et al.*, 2008).

In Taiwan, Chen (1969) listed 13 species in his “A synopsis of the vertebrates of Taiwan, Vol. 1”. Shen (1983) reviewed the Taiwanese species and recognized 15 species, including 4 new records. Shen (1984a, b) listed 15 species, Chen & Yu (1986) recorded 20 species and Shen *et al.* (1993) recorded 2 genera and 19 species in the family. Chen (1994) recorded 13 species in the Penghu Islands, western Taiwan. Of all species recorded by the publications mentioned above, two Australian endemic species, *P. binivirgata* Waite and *P. nebulosa* (Quoy & Gaimard), are almost certainly misidentifications, and *P. quadrispinosa* (Weber) is an uncertain species. In the absence of voucher specimens, all of the latter should be excluded. Several names have been changed by subsequent studies: *P. cephalopunctata* (Seale) is a junior synonym of *P. millepunctata* (Günther); *P. hexophthalma* (Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes) (*P. polyphthalma* (Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes) being a junior synonym) was replaced by *P. pacifica* Imamura & Yoshino; *P. mimaseana* Kamohara is a junior synonym of *P. striolata* (Weber); and *S. somaliensis* Schultz was replaced by *P. shaoi* Randall. The pinguipedid species recorded by previous publications in Taiwan are reviewed in Table 1.

During a recent visit to southern Taiwan, four unusual specimens of *Parapercis* were found in the Hengchun local market. These specimens were identified as an undescribed species by the authors. The new species is most similar to a recently described species, *P. basimaculata* Randall, Senou & Yoshino, but differs markedly in coloration, as well as in some aspects of morphology. The purpose of present work is to name and describe this new species. This will bring the total number of valid pinguipedid species recorded from Taiwan to 21.