



***Colletteichthys occidentalis*, a new Toadfish Species from the Arabian Peninsula and Northern Arabian Sea (Teleostei: Batrachoididae)**

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Abstract

The second known species in the genus *Colletteichthys* is described from the Arabian Peninsula and the northern Arabian Sea, supporting the validity of the genus *Colletteichthys*. Compared to the other known species, *C. dussumieri* from India, *C. occidentalis* has only a single tentacle above the eye whereas *C. dussumieri* has two or more. *Colletteichthys dussumieri* is restricted to the west coast of India.

Key words: Batrachoididae, *Colletteichthys*, Arabian Sea

Introduction

Batrachus dussumieri Valenciennes (1837) was described based on two specimens from Bombay (Mumbai) India (Figs. 1–2). The genus *Colletteichthys* was described for the single species *Batrachus dussumieri* (Greenfield 2006), which had previously been placed in the genus *Austrobatrachus* Smith. *Colletteichthys dussumieri* was reported to range from the Arabian Gulf to India and Sri Lanka (Hutchins 1984, Randall, 1995 and Greenfield et al., 2008). In comparing the type material of *C. dussumieri* and other specimens from the west coast of India with specimens from the Arabian Peninsula and the northern Arabian Sea, consistent differences were noted. The Arabian specimens represent the second known species in the genus *Colletteichthys* and is described here.

Material and methods

All counts and measurements follow Hubbs and Lagler (1964) except that the last two fin rays are not counted as one unless it is clear that they are joined at the base, and eye diameter is that of the exposed iris (skin grows over edges of eyes). Measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm using dial calipers. All measurements are expressed as percentage of standard length (SL). All specimen lengths are SL. Dorsal and anal-fin counts were made from radiographs. Pectoral-fin rays are difficult to count in larger specimens, the dorsal and ventral-most rays are very small and often embedded in skin but can be exposed by dissection. Values for the holotype are presented first, followed by the range for all types, and by the mean, where appropriate, in parentheses. Specimens have been deposited in the following museums: BPBM—Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu; CAS—California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; USNM—United States National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian), Washington D.C.