



Article

Liopropoma randalli, a new serranid (Teleostei: Perciformes) fish from the Indian Ocean

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Abstract

A new serranid fish, *Liopropoma randalli* n. sp. is described from four specimens collected from the Indian Ocean off southwestern India and eastern Indonesia. It differs from all other species in the genus in its striking color pattern, a broad black band from behind the eye to the caudal peduncle, semicircular dark-brown to black spots that cover the pink to reddish body, and a combination of the following characters: 46 to 49 lateral line scales; 1–2 (4 as rudiments) + 12–13 (4–5 as rudiments) gill rakers on the first arch (total 17–19); longest dorsal soft ray 2.1–2.3 in head length; 1st anal-fin spine 10.4–12.2 in head length; 2nd anal-fin spine 4.4–4.9 in head length; pelvic fin relatively short, 5.1–5.7 in SL; and body depth 3.2–3.6 in SL.

Keywords: *Liopropoma randalli*, Serranidae, Perciformes, Indian Ocean, India, Indonesia

Introduction

The genus *Liopropoma* was proposed by Gill 1861 for *Perca aberrans* Poey (1860) a species based on a single specimen from deepwater off Cuba. Members of this genus are small to medium-sized and colorful fishes, belonging to the tribe Liopropomini within the serranid subfamily Epinephelinae, which occur in tropical and subtropical waters of the Indo-Pacific and Western Atlantic (Randall & Taylor, 1988). In their review of the Indo-West and Central Pacific species of *Liopropoma*, Randall & Taylor (1988) provided a detailed account of the genus and of 18 species, which included seven new species. Since this review, another species, *Liopropoma dorsoluteum* Kon, Yoshino & Sakurai, 1999, has been described from the Indo-West Pacific off Japan and Taiwan. In addition to these species, two species are known from the Eastern Pacific and six are known from the Western Atlantic (Eschmeyer & Fong, 2011).

Of the 27 nominal species of *Liopropoma*, seven species are known to occur in the Indian Ocean for at least part of their range: *L. africanum* (Smith, 1954); *L. dorsoluteum* Kon, Yoshino & Sakurai, 1999 (based on Indonesian record referred to later in this paper); *L. lunulatum* (Guichenot, 1863); *L. mitratum* Lubbock & Randall, 1978; *L. multilineatum* Randall & Taylor, 1988; *L. susumi* (Jordan & Seale, 1906); *L. tonstrinum* Randall & Taylor, 1988 (Lubbock & Randall, 1978; Randall & Taylor, 1988; Khalaf & Zajonz, 2007; CMFRI, 2009).

Most species of *Liopropoma* are poorly represented in collections and as a result, a number of species are described based on only one or two specimens. Recent surveys of fish landing sites in southwestern India and southern Indonesia resulted in the collection of four specimens of an undescribed species of *Liopropoma*. These specimens were collected by gillnet off the coast of Mangalore in depths of 170–260 m (n = 2) and from a fish landing site in Lombok, eastern Indonesia (n = 2). This new species of *Liopropoma* from the Indian Ocean is described herein.