



Article

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A new species of deeper dwelling West Pacific cardinalfish (Percomorpha: Apogonidae) with a redescription of *Ostorhinchus atrogaster*

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Abstract

A new species of cardinalfish is described from Palau. A deep-water species from 72 meters on a steep drop off is unlikely to be collected often. This slender species may belong with a group of deeper dwelling cardinalfishes. Fresh post-mortem specimens differ in color pattern from other translucent *Ostorhinchus* in having a faint yellow midline stripe ending in a diffuse scattering of melanophores forming a basicaudal spot, a yellowish nape stripe above lateral-line scales reaching to near mid-base of the second dorsal fin, melanophores forming a short band along the side of the abdomen from near the anus to below the pectoral-fin base, lower lip and snout dusky. *Ostorhinchus atrogaster* is redescribed from the type material and differs from the new species in dentition on the premaxilla and dentary and having a silvery line above the lateral line to the base of the caudal fin.

Key words: *Ostorhinchus aphanes*, *Ostorhinchus atrogaster*, cardinalfish

Introduction

The broad Indo-Pacific region continues to yield more deeper-dwelling cardinalfish. Most of these fish are known from only a few collections. The new species was collected by Pat Colin 12 years ago diving to 73 meters along a short drop-off. Data from these six specimens suggested a relationship with another species, *Ostorhinchus atrogaster*, collected from 82 meters by beam trawl on coral sand in the Philippines 103 years ago. A redescription of this species is presented because at least two species are among the paratypes (Fraser and Lachner, 1984), one of which may represent the new species.

Methods

Methods for meristic data and measurements are given in Fraser (2005). Meristic data and proportions are given for the holotype followed by the ranges of paratypes in parentheses. Acronyms used to designate institutions and collections cited follow Fricke and Eschmeyer (2012). Most of the internal bone, cartilage characters and scale characteristics were taken from the cleared and stained paratype. The scale characteristics were checked on the holotype and paratypes. Partial head pore pattern and free neuromast patterns were based on a combination of specimens.

***Ostorhinchus aphanes* n.sp.**

Figure 1A & B, Table 1

Material examined. *Ostorhinchus aphanes* holotype, ROM 81239, 44.6mm SL, Palau, Off Uchelbeluu Reef (short