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***Pempheris ufuagari* sp. nov., a new species in the genus *Pempheris* (Perciformes, Pempheridae) from the oceanic islands of Japan**

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Abstract

Pempheris ufuagari sp. nov. is described based on 10 specimens, 143.9–196.8 mm in standard length, collected from Minami Daito Island and Ogasawara Islands, which are oceanic islands of Japan. *Pempheris ufuagari* is characterized by a distinct black spot on the pectoral fin base, a bright yellow dorsal and caudal fin, and a blackish band on the outer margin of the anal fin. *Pempheris oualensis* also has a large body and a distinct black spot on the pectoral fin base, and forms mixed schools with *P. ufuagari*, but can be distinguished by the different fin coloration (dorsal and caudal fin brown or pale; no blackish band on anal fin margin), and the presence of a villiform tooth band extending outside the lips. Although *P. otaitensis*, which is found in French Polynesia and Samoa, has similar coloration as *P. ufuagari*, the latter has lower scale counts than those of the former species: pored lateral-line scales 62–71 (vs. 70–79); scale rows above lateral line 6 1/2–7 1/2 (vs. 8 1/2); predorsal scales 37–43 (vs. 44–48).

Key words: Daito Islands, Ogasawara Islands, Pempheridae, *Pempheris ufuagari* sp. nov., taxonomy

Introduction

Fishes of the family Pempheridae are commonly called sweepers and are also known as hatampo in Japan. They are found on rocky and coral reefs of the tropical to temperate Indo-Pacific and western Atlantic oceans. The two genera in the family are *Parapriacanthus* Steindachner 1870 and *Pempheris* Cuvier 1829, the latter of which currently has 37 nominal species (Eschmeyer 2012). Based on Tominaga (1963), five species (*Pempheris japonica* Döderlein in Steindachner & Döderlein 1883, *P. sasakii* Jordan & Hubbs 1925, *P. schwenkii* Bleeker 1855, *P. xanthoptera* Tominaga 1963, *Pempheris* sp.) have been recorded from Japan. *Pempheris sasakii* is commonly synonymized with *P. nyctereutes* Jordan & Evermann 1903, but Tominaga (1963) recognized some color differences between the two species. Thus, we provisionally judged *P. sasakii* as a valid species in the present study. Added to these five species, our recent studies reported *P. oualensis* Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1831 and *P. vanicolensis* Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1831 from the Ryukyu Archipelago (Koeda *et al.* 2010a, b).

The taxonomy of the genus in the Indo-Pacific has been long confused. The authors are now in the process of revising the whole genus. In this process, the first author collected seven specimens of an undescribed species from Minami Daito Island in Daito Islands. In addition, three specimens collected from Chichi-jima Island and Ootojima Island in Ogasawara Islands were found in the research collection of the National Science Museum, Tokyo (NSMT), and that of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii (BPBM). These specimens were reported as *P. otaitensis* Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1831 by Randall *et al.* (1997). We describe this new species in the present report.