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Revision of the Indo-West Pacific genus *Brachypterois* (Scorpaenidae: Pteroinae), with description of a new species from northeastern Australia

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Table of contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Abstract | 401 |
| Introduction | 402 |
| Materials and methods | 402 |
| Genus <i>Brachypterois</i> Fowler 1938 | 404 |
| Key to the species of <i>Brachypterois</i> | 406 |
| <i>Brachypterois curvispina</i> sp. nov. | 407 |
| <i>Brachypterois serrulata</i> (Richardson 1846) | 416 |
| <i>Brachypterois serrulifer</i> Fowler 1938 | 426 |
| Discussion | 432 |
| Acknowledgments | 436 |
| References | 437 |

Abstract

A taxonomic revision of the scorpaenid genus *Brachypterois* resulted in three valid species. *Brachypterois serrulifer* Fowler 1938, previously regarded as a junior synonym of *Sebastes serrulatus* Richardson 1846, can be distinguished from its congeners by having usually 16 pectoral-fin rays (vs. 15 in the congeners) and 0–22 spines on the median lateral ridge of the maxilla (vs. almost always absent), in addition to longer dorsal- and anal-fin soft rays, relatively fewer large dark spots on the caudal fin, and the posterior lacrimal spines usually directed ventrally. *Brachypterois curvispina* **sp. nov.**, described on the basis of 32 specimens, can be distinguished from *B. serrulata* (Richardson 1846) by having fewer number of scale rows in the longitudinal series 41–45 (vs. 44–51 in *B. serrulata*); relatively long head, its length 41.6–44.5 (mean 43.1)% SL [vs. 38.3–43.1 (mean 40.2)% SL]; posterior lacrimal spines usually directed posteriorly, with the tip curved strongly upward in large males (vs. simply directed posteroventrally); and posteriorly directed spine(s) on the posterior corner of the outer angular ridge (vs. directed ventrally). *Brachypterois serrulifer* is distributed widely in the Indo-West Pacific, whereas distributional ranges of *B. curvispina* **sp. nov.** and *B. serrulata* are restricted to northeastern Australia and the northwestern Pacific, respectively. Intraspecific variation, including sexual dimorphism and ontogenetic changes in the three species are described in detail. A neotype, collected from southern Taiwan, is designated for *S. serrulatus* Richardson 1846.

Key words: *Brachypterois curvispina*, *Brachypterois serrulata*, *Brachypterois serrulifer*, taxonomy, redescription, validity, sexual dimorphism