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## A new species of *Satyrichthys* (Teleostei: Peristediidae) from the Maldives Archipelago (Indian Ocean)

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### Abstract

A new species of the genus *Satyrichthys*, *Satyrichthys kikingeri* **sp. nov.**, is described from the Rasdhoo Atoll, Maldives Archipelago. The new species is placed in a group of *Satyrichthys* with at least three lip barbels and unequal parietal bones. It differs from its congeners in the combination of the following characters: (1) 3/3 lip and 1/0 chin barbels, (2) 15 fin rays in the second dorsal fin, 13 fin rays in the anal fin, (3) 25 bony plates in the dorsal, 29 in the upper lateral and 20 in the lower lateral rows, (4) 21st to 28th bony plates in the upper lateral row with forward directed spines and (5) parietal bones unequal in size on midline. *Satyrichthys kikingeri* **sp. nov.** is the first *Satyrichthys* species reported from the Republic of the Maldives.

**Key words:** Peristediidae, *Satyrichthys kikingeri* **sp. nov.**, Indian Ocean, Maldives

### Introduction

The scorpaeniform family Peristediidae (armored sea robins) is characterized by (1) a body entirely enclosed by four rows of spinous bony plates (scutes) on each side; (2) a large bony head with spines and ridges; (3) each first infraorbital (lachrymal) anteriorly extending in distinct rostral projections; (4) barbels on the lower jaw, and (5) pectoral fins with the two ventral most fin rays free and enlarged (Miller 1974; Miller & Richards 2002; Richards 1984, 1999; Kawai 2008, 2013).

About 33 peristediid species in six genera (*Gargariscus* Smith 1917, *Heminodus* Smith 1917, *Paraheminodus* Kamohara, 1958, *Peristedion* Lacépède 1801, *Scalicus* Jordan 1923 and *Satyrichthys* Kaup 1873) are known, all from deep waters of tropical and temperate oceans (Kawai 2008, 2013). The distribution of most species is only fragmentarily known and the phylogeny and relationship of peristediid fishes was poorly understood (Kamohara 1957, Miller 1974, Chen & Shao 1988, Kawai *et al.* 2004a). Kawai (2008) revised the genus-level classification of the armored sea robins in a comprehensive study on the phylogeny of peristediid fishes and separated the two closely related genera *Satyrichthys* and *Scalicus*.

The genus *Satyrichthys* is diagnosed as follows: (1) no teeth in upper and lower jaws; (2) lateral margin of the head smooth; (3) the ventral row of bony plates on caudal peduncle extending posteriorly, separating the posterior bony plates of the lower lateral series; (4) only the posterior lip and chin barbels branched, and (5) fewer than 20 soft rays in dorsal and anal fin (Kawai 2008, 2013).

In his recent review of the genus *Satyrichthys*, Kawai (2013) recognizes seven species: *S. clavilapis* Fowler, 1938, *S. laticeps* (Schlegel 1848), *S. longiceps* (Fowler 1943), *S. milleri* Kawai, 2013, *S. moluccense* (Bleeker 1850), *S. rieffeli* (Kaup 1859) and *S. welchi* (Herre 1925). One specimen of an undescribed species of the genus *Satyrichthys* was collected by one of us (C. P.) in the Maldives in 2012. We provide a description of the new species.