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Description of a new species of the cardinalfish genus *Pseudamiops* (Perciformes, Apogonidae) from the Red Sea

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Abstract

A new species of pseudamine cardinalfish, *Pseudamiops springeri*, is described from five specimens collected in the Red Sea. It may be distinguished from the four known species of *Pseudamiops* in having 13 pectoral-fin rays, pseudobranch with 2–4 filaments, no canine teeth on the vomer, anterior nostril with a conspicuous skin flap and genital opening flanked by two slender papillae. *Pseudamiops springeri* is closest to its Western Indian Ocean congener *P. pellucidus* Smith.

Key words: Egypt, Pseudaminae, *Pseudamiops springeri* new species, *Pseudamiops pellucidus*, Saudi Arabia, taxonomy

Introduction

The apogonid subfamily Pseudaminae has four genera including *Pseudamiops*, a genus of four small, rather cryptic species inhabiting the recesses of tropical coral and rocky reefs. *Pseudamiops pellucidus* Smith, 1954, the type species of this genus, is known from the coast of East Africa (Smith 1961, Gon 1986). The other three species, namely *P. gracilicauda* (Lachner, 1953), *P. diaphanes* Randall, 1998 and *P. phasma* Randall, 2001 are found in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Specimens of *Pseudamiops*, possibly of an unknown species, were collected in Chagos Archipelago (Winterbottom *et al.* 1989). The Red Sea had no pseudamine species (Dor 1984) until Randall (1985) reported *Pseudamia gelatinosa* Smith, 1956 from Sudan. Seventeen years later Gon and Golani (2002) described *Gymnapogon melanogaster* from the Gulf of Aqaba. The most recent checklist of Red Sea fishes (Golani & Bogorodsky 2010) includes both pseudamine species. During field work along the central Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia in March–April 2011, the second author collected a small specimen of an unknown species of *Pseudamiops*. Two additional specimens, collected in Egypt in 1965 and 1969, were later discovered at the fish collection of the United States National Museum of Natural History. In June 2013, during field work conducted by King Abdulaziz University, the second author collected two more specimens at Al Wajh, Saudi Arabia. Examination of all five specimens and comparison with their congeners culminated in the new species described in this paper, the first representative of *Pseudamiops* in the Red Sea.

Material and methods

Measurements were taken to the nearest 0.5 mm. Unless stated otherwise, specimen length is the standard length (SL), measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the hypural. Body depth is measured vertically at pelvic-fin insertion and body width is the widest point of the body anterior to the pectoral-fin bases. Head length is the distance from the tip of the upper jaw to the posteriormost edge of opercular membrane. Snout length is taken from the tip of the upper jaw to the front edge of the eye. Eye diameter is the fleshy orbit diameter measured horizontally. Interorbital width is the least bony width. Lengths of the upper and lower jaws are measured from the tip of the jaws to the posterior edge of the maxilla and the angular bone, respectively. Depth of the maxilla is