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Description of a new species and redescriptions of two rare species of *Parapercis* (Perciformes: Pinguipedidae) from the tropical Pacific Ocean

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Abstract

Parapercis johnsoni sp. nov. is described based on 19 specimens from Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia. It differs from congeners in having a combination of the following characters: dorsal-fin rays V, 21; anal-fin rays I, 17; pectoral-fin rays modally 17; pored lateral-line scales modally 52 or 53; predorsal scales 7 or 8; transverse scale rows 3.5 or 4 + 14 or 15; total gill rakers on 1st gill arch 13–16; single row of teeth on vomer; 6 large canines at front of lower jaw; and a distinct coloration. Two rare species, *P. flavescens* Fourmanoir & Rivaton, 1979 and *P. fuscolineata* Fourmanoir, 1985, are re-described based on the types and newly identified specimens. Comments on other species occurring in the area are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, Pisces, *Parapercis johnsoni* sp. nov., *Parapercis flavescens*, *Parapercis fuscolineata*

Introduction

The sandperch genus *Parapercis* is the most speciose in the Pinguipedidae, currently comprising 79 valid species (Ho *et al.*, 2014; pers. data), whereas the other six genera comprise only 1 or 2 species. Fourmanoir & Rivaton (1979) described *Parapercis flavescens* based on two specimens collected from south of the Isle of Pines, New Caledonia. Fourmanoir (1985) described two other species, *P. rosea* and *P. fuscolineata*, each based on four specimens, collected from the Philippines. All three species have rarely been mentioned, despite more than 20 papers dealing with taxonomic and nomenclatural issues and regional checklists in the past two decades (pers. obs.). Randall (2001) treated these three species as valid, but gave *P. rufa* as a replacement name for *P. rosea*. Ho & Causse (2012) gave a redescription of *P. rufa*, based on the types and three specimens collected from offshore Taiwan. However, the other two species remain poorly known.

Examination of pinguipedid specimens deposited in the fish collection of Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) revealed 7 unidentified specimens of *P. flavescens* collected from New Caledonia and 3 unidentified specimens of *P. fuscolineata* collected from Vanuatu, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands, respectively. Together with the type series of both species, a redescription is provided for each.

In addition, 19 specimens of *Parapercis* collected from Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia are recognized as an undescribed species. The new species shares a number of characteristics with 16 congeners that have a reddish body, usually 5–8 saddles on dorsal surface, 50–58 pored lateral-line scales, single row of teeth on vomer, and no teeth on palatines. A formal description of the new species and redescriptions of two rare species are provided, as well as comments on other species occurring in the area.

Methods and material

Methods for taking counts and measurements followed Randall *et al.* (2008) generally. All measurements are taken from point to point. The body depth and width are taken at the pectoral-fin base. Caudal fin length is taken in two