

**Redescription of a Rare Armored Gurnard,  
*Heminodus philippinus* (Actinopterygii:  
Teleostei: Peristediidae)**

**Toshio Kawai<sup>1</sup> and Kazuhiro Nakaya<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Collection Center, National Museum of Nature and Science,  
3-23-1 Hyakunin-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-0073 Japan  
E-mail: kawai@kahaku.go.jp

<sup>2</sup>Chair of Marine Biology and Biodiversity (Systematic Ichthyology),  
Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University,  
3-1-1 Minato-cho, Hakodate, Hokkaido, 041-8611 Japan  
E-mail: nakaya@fish.hokudai.ac.jp

(Received 25 April 2007; Accepted 12 July 2007)

A rare peristediid fish, *Heminodus philippinus* Smith, 1917, is redescribed on the basis of the holotype and 25 additional specimens collected from the eastern Indian Ocean off Java and Sumatra in Indonesia. Our examination has revealed that *H. japonicus* Kamohara, 1952, described from Japan, is a junior synonym of *H. philippinus*.

**Key Words:** Actinopterygii, Peristediidae, *Heminodus philippinus*, *Heminodus japonicus*, Indonesia, Indian Ocean, redescription, synonym.

### Introduction

Among the armored gurnards, the peristediid genus *Heminodus* was established by Smith (1917) with the type species *H. philippinus* Smith, 1917, which he described from off Mindanao Island in the Philippines. The original description of the species is brief and lacks many details that are important for species recognition. Later, Kamohara (1952) described a second species referred to *Heminodus*, *H. japonicus* Kamohara, 1952 from Kochi, Japan. He differentiated his new taxon from *H. philippinus* by the number of barbels on the lip and the shape of the rostral projection. Since then, no additional specimens of the two taxa have been reported.

Twenty-five specimens assignable to *Heminodus philippinus* were collected from the eastern Indian Ocean off Java and Sumatra, Indonesia, during the Japan and Indonesia Deep Sea Fishery Resources Joint Exploration Project, sponsored by the Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) of Japan and the Agency for Marine and Fisheries Research (AMFR) of the Republic of Indonesia. In this paper, we redescribe *H. philippinus* in detail in order to supplement the brief original description. The type material of *H. japonicus* has been also reexamined. There are no significant morphological differences warranting the recognition of *H. japonicus* as a valid taxon, and thus we propose to synonymize *H. japonicus* under *H. philippinus*.

Counts and proportional measurements follow Kawai *et al.* (2004). Standard