

***Satyrichthys rugosus*, a Junior Synonym of *Satyrichthys clavilapis* (Actinopterygii: Teleostei: Peristediidae)**

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Satyrichthys rugosus (Fowler, 1943) was established with no comparison to other peristediid searobins. Our examination of types and other material of both *S. rugosus* and *S. clavilapis* (Fowler, 1938) has clarified that *S. rugosus* represents postlarvae and juveniles of the latter species. We therefore regard *S. rugosus* as a junior synonym of *S. clavilapis* and comment on its ontogenetic changes in morphology.

Key Words: Actinopterygii, Peristediidae, *Satyrichthys rugosus*, *Satyrichthys clavilapis*, *Acanthostedion*, synonym.

Introduction

Fowler (1943), who described *Acanthostedion* with *A. rugosum* Fowler, 1943 from the Philippines as its type species, stated that the genus is characterized by having five dorsal-fin spines, a stick-like rostral projection, and a well developed parietal spine. Since then, no other species has been included in *Acanthostedion*, and no additional specimens of *A. rugosum* have been collected. Miller (1967) noted that the description of *Acanthostedion* was based on postlarvae and juveniles, and that the postlarvae of peristediids have a long rostral projection and a well developed parietal spine. In addition, Miller (1967) pointed out that the holotype of *A. rugosum* is damaged and that three of the seven paratypes have seven dorsal-fin spines, not five; therefore, he treated *Acanthostedion* as a junior synonym of *Satyrichthys* Kaup, 1873 without discussing the validity of *A. rugosum*. Our comparison reported here, among all species of *Satyrichthys* (*sensu* Kawai 2008), shows that *S. rugosus* is a junior synonym of *S. clavilapis* (Fowler, 1938), a species known from the Philippines, Indonesia, and the South China Sea (Fowler 1938; Richards 2000; Kawai and Takata 2008).