Species Diversity, 2010, **15**, 57–70

Two New Chaenopsid Fishes, *Neoclinus monogrammus* and *Neoclinus nudiceps* (Teleostei: Perciformes: Blennioidei), from Japan

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(Received 1 October 2009; Accepted 6 April 2010)

Two new species of blennioid fish, *Neoclinus monogrammus* and *N. nudiceps*, are described on the basis of, respectively, ten specimens from the Boso Peninsula, Pacific coast of Japan, depth 28 m, and seven specimens from the Oki Islands, Sea of Japan, depth 7–9 m. The two new species are distinguished from all other congeners by the following combination of characters: lateral-line canal continuous, with single row of pores; two cirri on orbit; no true ocellus on anterior part of dorsal fin; dorsal fin low, not elevated anteriorly in either sex; no narrow membrane along anterior edge of 1st dorsal-fin spine. *Neoclinus monogrammus* and *N. nudiceps* differ in the following characters: pore counts and extent of lateral-line canal (9–15 pores, reaching to below 6th to 9th dorsal-fin spine in the former vs 3–5 pores, reaching to below 3rd to 4th dorsal-fin spine in the latter); counts of supraorbital cirri tips (anterior and posterior cirri with 10–28 and 3–14 tips, respectively, vs 2–6 and 1–2 tips, respectively); male color pattern on head (scattered reddish spots vs no conspicuous spots); body depth in proportion to standard length (11.3–13.4% vs 13.0–15.4%); and head depth in proportion to head length (51.2–58.0% vs 56.6–60.6%).
Key Words: Blennioidei, Chaenopsidae, Japan, *Neoclinus*, new species.

Introduction

The blennioid genus *Neoclinus* Girard, 1858 includes typical blenny-shaped fishes characterized by a scaled body (except one species), four infraorbital bones, and a well-developed lateral-line canal. Its familial assignment among the blennioids has been much discussed over the years (see Fukao 1980; Springer 1993). Hastings and Springer (1994) most recently redefined the family Chaenopsidae as a monophyletic group, comprising previously acknowledged chaenopsids (*sensu* Stephens 1963), *Stathmonotus* Bean, 1885, *Mccoskerichthys* Rosenblatt and Stephens, 1978, and *Neoclinus*. *Neoclinus* was ranked in the most primitive position within the family. This classification, which was based in part on behavioural features, has been accepted by Smith-Vaniz (2000), and *Neoclinus* is also regarded