

***Thysanichthys evides*, a Senior Synonym of *Sebastella littoralis*, and a Valid Species of *Scorpaenodes* (Actinopterygii: Scorpaenidae)**

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The nominal species, *Thysanichthys evides* Jordan and Thompson, 1914 (Scorpaenidae), originally described from Misaki, Japan, has not been reported since its original description. Examination of the type specimens of *T. evides* showed them to be identical with the holotype and non-type specimens of a species previously widely-regarded as *Scorpaenodes littoralis* (Tanaka, 1917), originally described as *Sebastella littoralis*, also from Misaki. *Thysanichthys evides* is herein regarded as a senior synonym of *Sebastella littoralis*, and is a valid species of *Scorpaenodes*.

Key Words: Teleostei, Scorpaenidae, *Scorpaenodes*, synonymy, *Thysanichthys evides*, *Sebastella littoralis*.

Introduction

The scorpionfish *Scorpaenodes littoralis* (Tanaka, 1917) (*q.v.*), originally described as a new genus and species *Sebastella littoralis* on the basis of a single specimen from Misaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, is characterized by having coronal and interorbital spines, and a dark blotch on the subopercle (Poss 1999; Nakabo 2002). This species is widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific, including East Asia (Ishida 1997; Randall *et al.* 1997; Xinbo 2006), Hawaii (Mundy 2005), French Polynesia (Randall 2005), Australasia (Hutchins 2001; Paulin *et al.* 2001), the Arabian Sea (Manilo and Bogorodsky 2003), and South Africa (Eschmeyer 1986). However, it has never been recorded from equatorial regions, and thus has an antitropical distribution (Poss 1999; this study). It is common on shallow rocky reefs in temperate and subtropical regions, especially along the Pacific coast of southern Japan (Motomura and Iwatsuki 1997; Shinohara *et al.* 2000; Senou *et al.* 2002, 2006). A detailed study on its biology was published by Yoneda *et al.* (2000).

Scorpaenodes littoralis has been widely recognized as a valid species (e.g., Poss 1999; Greenfield and Matsuura 2002); however, our examination of the holotypes of *Thysanichthys evides* Jordan and Thompson, 1914 (*q.v.*) and *Sebastella littoralis* (both from Misaki, Japan) revealed that they represent the same species. Thus, *T. evides* is a senior synonym of *Scorpaenodes littoralis*, and is regarded here as a