

## Description of a Pelagic Juvenile Specimen of *Gadella jordani* (Actinopterygii: Gadiformes: Moridae) from Southern Japan, with a Note on the Color in Life

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A pelagic juvenile (43.0 mm standard length) of the morid *Gadella jordani* (Böhlke and Mead, 1951) was collected from Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan. It has a characteristically elongated body, long dorsal and anal fin bases with 73 rays in each fin, the anus located more anteriorly than the origin of the second dorsal fin, a ventral light organ, and no chin barbel. We describe the morphology of this specimen and also present a color photograph of it in life. This is the first report of any early life stage in this species.

**Key Words:** Teleostei, Gadiformes, Moridae, *Gadella jordani*, pelagic juvenile, color in life, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.

### Introduction

*Gadella* Lowe, 1843 is a genus of morid cod with members distributed from temperate to tropical regions in the deep sea (usually deeper than 150 m) of almost all oceans. They are mainly characterized by having two dorsal fins, a ventral light organ, and no chin barbel (Paulin 1989a, b; Trunov 1992; Paulin and Roberts 1997; Long and McCosker 1998; Sazonov and Shcherbachev 2000). The taxonomy of the genus was reviewed by Paulin (1989b) and Sazonov and Shcherbachev (2000), and 13 species are regarded as valid. Morphological information on the early life stages is, however, limited to two species of this genus: *Gadella imberbis* (Vaillant, 1888) and *G. maraldi* (Risso, 1810) (cf. Fahay and Markle 1984; Comyns and Bond 2005).

On 11 March 2010, one of us (KM) caught an unsteadily swimming juvenile morid at a beach in Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan. The living juvenile was taken to his private aquarium (Scuba Diving Shop SB, Kagoshima), where it was photographed, but it died after about six hours. The preserved specimen was brought to the Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute where it was identified as *Gadella jordani* (Böhlke and Mead, 1951), a widely distributed species in the western North Pacific, South Pacific, and Indian Oceans (Okamura 1984; Paulin 1989b; Shinohara and Matsuura 1997; Sazonov and Shcherbachev 2000; Shinohara *et al.* 2005) (Table 1). The early life stages of this species have never been described. We here describe and illustrate the pelagic juvenile of *G. jordani* for the first time, based on the present specimen, with notes on its coloration in life.