First Records of the Blacktail Triplefin (Perciformes: Tripterygiidae), Helcogramma aquila, from Japan, with Notes on its Fresh Coloration

Satokuni Tashiro and Hiroyuki Motomura

Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University, 4–50–20 Shimoarata, Kagoshima 890–0056, Japan
The Kagoshima University Museum, 1–21–30 Korimoto, Kagoshima 890–0065, Japan
E-mail: motomura@kaum.kagoshima-u.ac.jp
Corresponding author

(Received 19 November 2012; Accepted 9 January 2013)

Introduction

The original description of Helcogramma aquila Williams and McCormick, 1990 was based on 13 specimens collected from the Batanes Islands, Philippines. Subsequently, Fricke (1997) redescribed the species on the basis of the type series, four new specimens from the Philippines, and five specimens from Guam. Recently, Myers and Donaldson (2003) listed H. aquila from Saipan. Field and museum collection surveys for tripterygiids in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan, have yielded eight specimens of H. aquila from Okinoerabu-jima and Okinawa-jima islands. These specimens are described herein as the first records of this species from Japan, and the specimen from Okinoerabu-jima island is the northernmost record for the species. Underwater photographs of male and female individuals and color photographs of a fresh male specimen are given for the first time for H. aquila.

Key Words: Ryukyu Islands, Helcogramma fuscopinna species group, distribution, fresh coloration.

Materials and Methods

Counts and measurements follow Fricke (1997) and Holleman and Bogorodsky (2012), with the mandibular-pore formula following Hansen (1986). Measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm with needle-point calipers under a dissecting microscope. Standard length is abbreviated as SL. The description is based on specimens from Japan.

The specimens of H. aquila examined in this study are deposited at the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia (AMS); the Kagoshima University Museum, Kagoshima, Japan (KAUM); the Hiwa Museum for Natural History, Hiwa, Hiroshima, Japan (HMNH); and the Museum Support Center of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Suitland, MD, USA (USNM).

Helcogramma aquila Williams and McCormick, 1990

[Figs 1–4; Table 1]

Material examined. 8 specimens from the Ryukyu Islands, Japan: HMNH-P 8003, male, 37.3 mm SL, Nishihara, Okinoerabu-jima island, Amami Islands, Kagoshima 25 May 2013
DOI: 10.12782/sd.18.1.009

© 2013 The Japanese Society of Systematic Zoology