

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

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Eight specimens (33.2–40.8 mm standard length) of *Helcogramma aquila* Williams and McCormick, 1990 (Tripterygiidae), previously known from the Philippines and the Mariana Islands, were collected from Okinoerabu-jima and Okinawa-jima islands in the Ryukyu Islands, Japan. These specimens represent 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.

## 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 *H. aquila* from Japan, and the specimen collected from Okinoerabu-jima island represents the northernmost record for this species. Williams and McCormick (1990) and Fricke (1997) provided morphological descriptions of the species based only on preserved specimens; therefore, no information on the fresh coloration of this species has been available. Underwater photographs of male and female individuals taken at Okinawa-jima island and a color photograph of a fresh male specimen are given here for the first time for *H. aquila*.

## 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

[New standard Japanese name: Momiji-hebigimpo]

(Figs 1–4; Table 1)

*Helcogramma aquila* Williams and McCormick, 1990: 1021, fig. 3A–B (type locality: Batan Island, Batanes Islands, Philippines); Williams and Howe 2003: 158, figs 3–4 (Batanes Islands, Philippines); Allen and Erdmann 2012: 772, unnumbered fig. (color photograph of preserved holotype).

*Helcogramma aquilum*: Fricke 1997: 409, fig. 81 (Guam, Mariana Islands; Batanes Islands, Philippines); Fricke and Williams 2000: 632 (listed name only); Williams and Fricke 2001: 3534 (listed name only); Myers and Donaldson 2003: 634 (name listed from Saipan, Mariana Islands).

*Helcogramma inclinata* (not of Fowler 1946): Yoshigou and Nakamura 2008: 70 (in part; listed as HMNH-P 4409, 9143–9148 from Okinawa-jima island, Ryukyu Islands).

*Helcogramma* sp.; Yoshigou and Nakamura 2008: 71 (in part; listed as HMNH-P 8003 from Okinoerabu-jima island, Ryukyu Islands).

**Material examined.** 8 specimens from the Ryukyu Islands, Japan: HMNH-P 8003, male, 37.3 mm SL, Nishihara, Okinoerabu-jima island, Amami Islands, Kagoshima