

Redescription of the Shortfin Pomfret, *Brama pauciradiata*, Based on Japanese Specimens (Actinopterygii: Perciformes: Bramidae)

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The shortfin pomfret, *Brama pauciradiata* Moteki, Fujita and Last, 1995, is redescribed based on six specimens collected off Mie Prefecture, Japan. Although this species was originally described based on 23 specimens collected off north-western and northeastern Australia and off Hawaii, the largest specimen measured 81.8 mm SL and most of the type series are juveniles of less than 50 mm SL. The present specimens include five much larger specimens, of 103.8–160.1 mm SL. Distinct differences observed in some proportional measurements between the type series and the present larger specimens are regarded as ontogenetic changes because the countable characters agree well with those of type series and because the pattern of transformation in body shape of the present specimens and the type series of *B. pauciradiata* is similar to that of its congeners. The distance from the lowest part of the base of the pectoral fin to the insertion of the pelvic fin, and also the pale caudal peduncle saddle of preserved specimens, were regarded as diagnostic characters in the original description, but these characters are shared with congeners. A female specimen of 155.0 mm SL (FRLM 42111) is regarded as representing the minimum size of maturity because of the condition of its oocytes. The distributional range of *B. pauciradiata* extends from the eastern Indian Ocean to a wide area of the western-central Pacific Ocean.

Key Words: *Brama pauciradiata*, Bramidae, Japan, adult morphometrics.

Introduction

The genus *Brama*, the largest genus of the family Bramidae contains eight valid species and is characterized by the following combination of characters: upper lip not free anteriorly, and fused with snout near anterior nostril; dorsal fin originating behind head; interorbital region narrow; and anterior vertical fins not prolonged (Mead 1972; Last and Moteki 2001). *Brama pauciradiata* Moteki, Fujita and Last, 1995 was described on the basis of the holotype (76.1 mm SL) and 22 paratypes. The largest specimen is 81.8 mm SL and most of the type series are juveniles of less than 50 mm SL. Moreover, 16 specimens are partially damaged recovered as stomach contents of *Alepisaurus ferox* Lowe, 1833. In 2012 and 2013, six specimens of *B. pauciradiata* (57.6–160.1 mm SL) were collected from the Pacific coast of Mie Prefecture, central Japan, together with many individuals of *Brama orcini* Cuvier, 1831. Here we redescribe *B. pauciradiata* based on the six specimens, which include adults, and discuss the differences from the type series. The present specimens are the first records from Japan and the northernmost records for the species.

Materials and Methods

Counts and measurements generally follow Hubbs and Lagler (1958). The counts of scale rows in longitudinal series follow Mead (1972). Standard length is measured from the anterior tip of the upper lip to the posterior margin of the hypural bone. Standard length and head length are abbreviated as SL and HL, respectively. Vertebral and vertical-fin-ray counts were made from soft X-ray photos. Cyanine blue was used for scale observation. Specimens examined in this study are deposited at the following fish collections: Australian National Fish Collection, Hobart, Australia (CSIRO); Fisheries Research Laboratory, Mie University, Shima, Japan (FRLM); National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, Japan (NSMT); and Museum Support Center, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, Suitland, Maryland, USA (USNM).

Material examined. Six specimens, 57.6–160.1 mm SL, all caught by purse seine off southern coast of Mie Prefecture, central Honshu, Japan: FRLM 41953, 133.2 mm SL, 3 August 2012, collected by M. Okada; FRLM 42111, 155.0 mm SL, 6 September 2012, collected by M. Okada; FRLM 44446, 44447, two specimens, 157.5 and 160.1 mm SL, 13 February 2013, collected by M. Okada; FRLM 44452, 57.6 mm SL, 12 October 2012, collected by M. Okada; FRLM 45335, 103.8 mm SL, 26 June 2013, collected by D. Sasaki.