

RECORD OF PACIFIC PARROT FISH *YPSISCARUS OEDEMA*
(SNYDER) FROM GULF OF MANNAR

R. S. LAL MOHAN AND V. GANDHI

Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFR Institute, Mandapam Camp.

ABSTRACT

The Pacific parrot fish, *Ypsiscarus oedema* (Snyder) is recorded and described from Gulf of Mannar, India.

While studying the coral fishes of Gulf of Mannar an interesting parrot fish *Ypsiscarus oedema* of the Family Scaridae was collected on 14-5-1974 from the gill net at Vedalai (Gulf of Mannar). A review of the literature shows that our understanding of the parrot fishes of India is far from complete. Day (1889) recorded 10 species of *Pseudoscarus* from India while 15 species of *Callyodon* were reported by Munro (1955) from India and Ceylon and 8 species from Laccadives by Jones and Kumaran (1965). Smith (1961) also described 46 species from Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean. But when compared to the 48 species from Indo-Australian Archipelago (de Beaufort 1940) and 68 species from Indo-Pacific region (Schultz 1969), it is quiet evident that this group which forms one of the important constituent of the coral fishes of this region, requires further study. The genus *Ypsiscarus* Schultz is represented by 2 species, *Y. ovifron* and *Y. oedema*. Another species, *Callyodon* (*Ypsiscarus*) *viridifucatus* which was described by Smith (1956) from South Africa is considered to be a synonym of *Y. ovifron* by Schultz (1969).

Ypsiscarus oedema (Snyder)

(Fig. 1)

Callyodon oedema Snyder, 1909. *Proc. U.S. Natn. Mus.*, 36: 597-610.

Scarus oedema Fowler and Bean, 1928. *Bull. 100 U.S. Natn. Mus.*, 7: 385;
Schultz, 1958. *U.S. Natn. Mus. Bull.*, 214: 1-143; Komohara, 1963.

Rep. Usa mar. biol. Stn Kochi Univ. Japan, 10 (1): 1-24.

Ypsiscarus oedema Schultz, 1969. *Smithson. Contr. Zool.*, 17: 1-5.

Material:

One specimen: CMFRI No. F.70|649; Total length, 559 mm; Standard length, 480 mm; Male (Matured); Hare Island (Gulf of Mannar) 14-5-1974; Gill net.

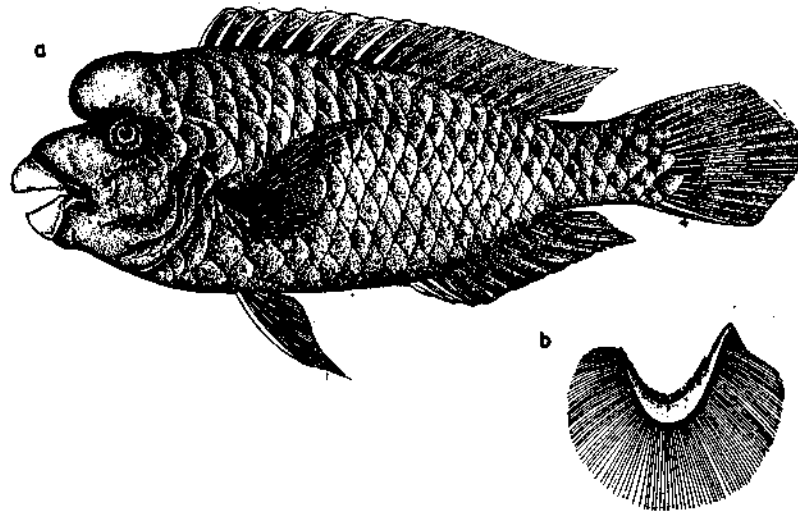


FIG. 1. *Ypsiscarus oedema* from Gulf of Mannar. (a) Male, total length 559 mm. (b) First gill arch with gill rakers.

Description:

D. IX, 10; A. III, 9; P. II, 13; C.14; L1.24; Ltr.1½|7; G.R.22|1|24.

In standard length, head 38.5(185), height at dorsal origin 46.5(225), eye diameter 3.3(16), snout 19.0(91), upper jaw 11.7(56), pectoral fin length 29.0(139), predorsal distance 40.2(192), preanal distance 70.8(340), second anal spine length 11.9(57), in head, length of the gibbus projection of head 25.9(91), height 49.1(48). In eye diameter length of longest gill raker 28.1(45); proportions in percent followed by their lengths in mm in parenthesis.

Dorsal profile of head strongly convex; the gibbus projection very prominent; dental plate exposed, white with serrated cutting edges, posterior end of upper dental plate with a strong canine on each side; cheeks with two rows of scales, preopercular flange naked, median predorsal scales three, scales large; lateral line interrupted, lateral line tubules branched; dorsal spines and rays subequal, last rays of dorsal and anal fins long reaching base of caudal fin, pectoral and ventral fins elongated, caudal rounded.

Body black, upper margin of dorsal and anal fins bluish, ventral and caudal fins dusky.

Ypsiscarus oedema has been reported from Celebes Sea, Phillipines, East Indies, Okinawa (Japan) and Tahiti. The present report of it from Gulf of Mannar extends its distribution from Pacific to Central Indian Ocean.

REFERENCES

- DAY, F. 1889. *Fauna of British India*, Taylor and Francis, London.
- DE BEAUFORT, L. F. 1940. *The fishes of Indo-Australian archipelago*, VIII: 255-326
E. J. Brill, Leiden.
- MUNRO, I. S. R. 1955. *The Marine and Fresh water fishes of Ceylon*: 1-351, Halstead Press, Sydney.
- JONES, S. AND M. KUMARAN. 1967. *J. Mar. biol. Ass. India*, 7: 381-400 (1965).
- SCHULTZ, L. P. 1969. *Smithson, Contr. Zool.*, no. 17: 1-49.
- SMITH, J. L. B. 1956. *Ichthyol. Bull. Rhodes Univ. Grahamstown*, 1: 1-23.
- SMITH, J. L. B. 1959. *Ichthyol. Bull. Rhodes Univ. Grahamstown*, 16: 265-281.