

**ANYPERODON LEUCOGRAMMICUS (CUV. AND VAL.) (PISCES :
SERRANIDAE), A NEW RECORD FROM THE ANDAMAN SEA**

G. LUTHER

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute; Sub-station, Vizhinjam

The occurrence of the genus *Anyperodon* Günther in the seas around India is reported here for the first time, based on one specimen of *A. leucogrammicus* (Cuv. and Val.), 285 mm total length, collected from the Andaman Sea, near Port Blair.

The genus *Anyperodon* Günther can be recognized from the numerous genera of the family Serranidae by the absence of palatine teeth, the anal and dorsal fin formulae usually being III, 9 and XI, 15 respectively. Herre (1953) mentions the distribution of the genus as "Tropical Indian and Western Pacific Oceans". However, there is no record of the species of the genus from the seas around India. The present report is, therefore, the first record of the genus from this region and based on one specimen of *A. leucogrammicus*, 285 mm total length (230 mm standard length), collected at Port Blair (Andamans) on 5-6-1963. The specimen has been deposited in the reference collection museum of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Reg. No. CMFRI-F 115/638.

ANYPERODON LEUCOGRAMMICUS (Cuv. and Val.)

Description — D. XI, 15; A. III, 9; Pect. ii, 15; L.1. 79; L.tr. 13/54. Vertical scale rows above lateral line 122; scales in a row from anal origin to lateral line about 29; from lateral line to base of soft dorsal 16. Gill rakers on upper arm, angle and lower arm of first arch respectively being ix, 1; 1; 10, vi — the Arabic numerals indicating the prominent rakers. No palatine teeth; vomer with a narrow \wedge — shaped band of teeth. One canine on each side of symphysis in each jaw. Preopercular edge rounded and coarsely serrate. Maxillary scaled. Mouth large and protractile; lower jaw longer, thus giving an acute shape to the front of head region (Fig. 1).

In per cent of standard length, greatest depth 28.3; head 40.9; snout 10.4; eye 7.2; post-orbital length of head 23.9; snout to rear end of maxilla 19.1; maximum width of maxilla 5.7; inter-orbital space 4.8; length of pectoral 19.3; length of pelvic 16.5; length of 3rd dorsal spine 10.9; and of 4th dorsal spine 11.3; maximum height of soft dorsal (at 6-9 rays) 14.8; second anal spine 9.6; third anal spine 9.1; maximum height of anal (at 4th ray) 14.8; length of caudal

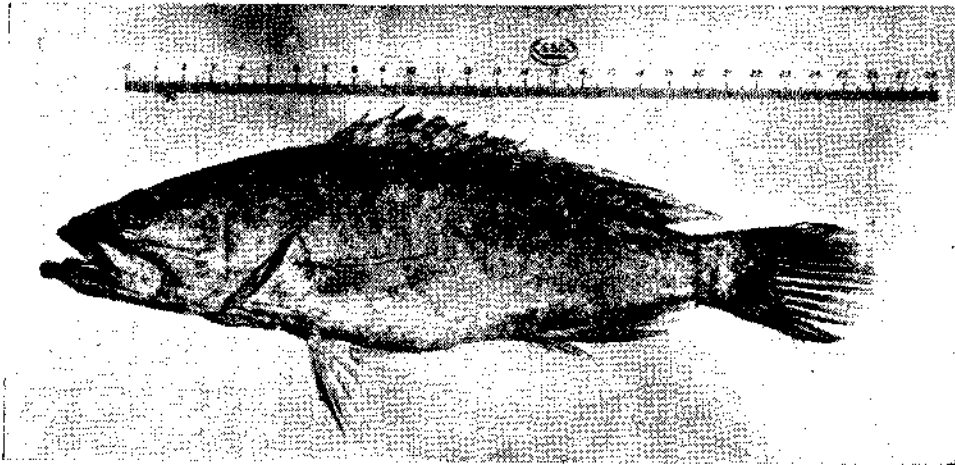


Fig. 1. *Anyperodon leucogrammicus* (Cuv. and Val.) from the Andaman Sea.

peduncle 16.9; least height of caudal peduncle 9.6; longest gill raker 3.7; and longest gill filament 2.6.

Colour — When fresh, the background colour reddish brown with brownish red spots, those on head being smaller and closer; ventral side paler. Five pale silvery blue streaks on sides, the lower three of which reach caudal peduncle; the upper two broken into elongate blotches. Membrane of spiny dorsal with brownish red spots as on body. On preservation in formalin this colouration faded away gradually with time, leaving a general brownish background colour with pale round spots on sides and over dorsal fin membrane.

Schultz (1953) states that this is a characteristically coloured serranid, brownish with orange spots in life. He gives (Pl. 27) photographs of a half-grown specimen and of a young adult of this species to show the difference in their colour pattern.

Distribution — Zanzibar and Madagascar, the Philippines, Marshall Islands, the Carolines and Samoa. This species is reported to be more abundant around the coral heads in the lagoons in deeper waters.

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