

About the record of bluenose sandperch *Parapercis alboguttata* (Günther, 1872) from northeast coast of India

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One specimen of *Parapercis alboguttata* (TL-205mm and TW-75g) was captured by mechanized trawl from Visakhapatnam fishing harbour and this record is one of the first in northeast coast of India. A short description of certain morphometric and meristic features of the specimen are given.

[**Keywords:** bluenose sandperch, *Parapercis alboguttata*, new record, northeast coast]

Introduction

The trachinoid family Pinguipedidae previously known as Mugiloididae included five genera earlier, the monotypic *Kochichthys* Kamohara from Japan and Taiwan, *Pinguipes* Cuvier with one species from each of the south-eastern Pacific and south-western Atlantic, the monotypic *Prolatilus* Gill from the south-eastern Pacific, *Pseudopercis* Miranda-Ribeiro with two species from the south-eastern Atlantic and *Parapercis* Bleeker with about 84 recognised species, including the fishes from the Indo-west Pacific and south-eastern Pacific, south-eastern Atlantic and north-eastern Atlantic^{1,3,4,13,14,15,16,17,21}. A new pinguipedid genus *Ryukyuperis* was included as the sixth genus in Pinguipedidae family by Imamura and Yoshino⁵ for *Parapercis gushikeni* which was earlier included under *Parapercis* because of several differences between the species and other species of *Parapercis*. Jhonson and Randall⁷ reported a new genus and species of Pinguipedidae *Simiperis trispinosa*, from eastern Australia and again included *Simiperis* as the seventh genera. *Parapercis* was previously known as *Percis*² but latter changed to *Parapercis*. The sandperches of the genus *Parapercis* are group of bottom fishes of tropical and subtropical waters of Indo-Pacific region usually occupying sandy areas near shallow lagoons and reef areas. *Parapercis dockinski* was the first species of *Parapercis* collected from Chile at 155m depth¹⁰. *Parapercis alboguttata* commonly known as bluenose

sandperch was obtained from the Bay of Bengal at Visakhapatnam coast.

Materials and Methods

One male specimen of *Parapercis alboguttata* (Fig.1) was captured at a depth of 50 m along with lizard fishes by mechanized trawl off Visakhapatnam coast (Lat- 17^o 41. 770' N and Long - 83^o 18. 058' E) on 6th August, 2013 in northeast coast of India.



Fig.1 *Parapercis alboguttata*, 205 mm TL from Visakhapatnam, northeast coast of India

Diagnostic characters of the specimen were measured to the nearest millimeter using digital calipers and then was fixed and preserved in 4% formaldehyde and deposited in the museum of the Visakhapatnam regional centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (Fig.2).

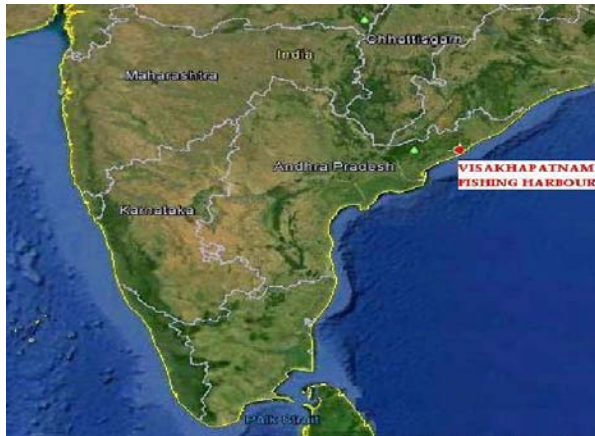


Fig.2. Capture location of *Parapercis alboguttata* at Visakhapatnam, northeast coast of India

Results and Discussion

Morphometric and meristic characters are given in Table.1. Other morphological characters are as follows. Body is elongate and robust, it is thickest in the region of posterior head and cylindrical behind the head and gradually becoming progressively compressed. Head is little depressed and eyes are lateral, oval and directed upwards. Mouth is big with lower jaw slightly projecting and lips are thick and armed by small teeth. Three pairs of canine teeth are present on vomer with no palentine teeth. It is a bottom-feeding carnivore and the presences of conspicuous canines support their predacious habit⁶. A single dorsal fin is present which is continuous with five spine and twenty two soft rays. Third dorsal spine is longest and caudal peduncle is slender.

Table 1. Meristic and morphometric characters of *Parapercis alboguttata* specimen in the Bay of Bengal

Meristic characters	(mm)
Branchiostegal rays	VI
Dorsal fin	V+22
Anal fin	I+18
Pectoral fin	16
Ventral fin	I+5
Caudal fin	15
Lateral line scales	61
Lateral transverse scales	4/14
Gillrakers	4+11(four rudimentary in lower limb)

Morphometric characters	
Total length	205
Standard length	171
Snout length	19
Body depth at dorsal fin	26
Body depth at anal fin	23
Post-orbital length	24
Length of dorsal fin base	105
Spinous dorsal fin base length	10
Soft dorsal fin base length	95
Maximum height of soft dorsal	21
Length of 1 st dorsal fin spine	4
Length of 2nd dorsal fin spine	9
Length of 3 rd dorsal fin spine	11
Length of 4 th dorsal fin spine	13
Length of 5 th dorsal fin spine	8
Length of pectoral fin	28
Length of pelvic fin	29
Length of pelvic fin spine	19
Length of anal fin base	73
Length of anal fin spine	9
Maximum height of anal fin	21
Head length	53
Eye diameter	13
Caudal peduncle length	16
Peduncle height	13
Caudal fin height	26
Inter orbital width	10
Predorsal length	50
Preanal length	81
Prepelvic length	49
Prepectoral length	59
Preorbital length	16
Sub orbital length	24
Maxilla length	20
Mandible length	23

Colour in fresh state- Body colour is pale red dorsally, whitish ventrally with two longitudinal rows of indistinct light red blotches on body, ending in 2 distinct dark red spots on caudal-fin base and snout light blue with oblique yellow lines.

Colour in alcohol- Head body and fins pale yellowish brown dorsally and ventrally silvery white.

Body proportions (as percent Standard Length): Head length 30.99 ; head depth 12.86 ; body depth I(at dorsal fin) 15.20 ; body depth II(at anal fin) 13.45 ; eye diameter 7.60 ; pre orbital 9.36 ; post orbital length 12.87 ; sub orbital length 14.04 ; pre dorsal length 29.24 ; pre anal length 47.37 ; pre pelvic length 28.65 ; pre pectoral length 34.50.

Body proportions (as percent head Length): Head depth 41.51 ; snout length 22.64 ; eye diameter 24.52 ; pre orbital length 30.19 ; post orbital length 41.51; sub orbital length 45.28; lower jaw length 35.85; upper jaw length 41.51.

Rosa and Rosa¹⁹ revised the South American species of Pinguipedidae and provided a diagnosis and definition of the family, describing three primary osteological synapomorphies of the family. *Pinguipes brasiliensis* was reported from Mediterian Sea by Relini¹⁸. Imamura and Matsura⁴ redefined the family using 14 derived characteristics. A new species of pinguipedid fish, *Paraperccis banoni* was first reported from southeast Atlantic by Randall and Yamakawa¹⁷. *Paraperccis clathrata* was reported for the first time from Indian waters by Kannan *et al.*⁸. The present report gives an insight on the species diversity of Pinguipedidae fishes. *Paraperccis alboguttata* was reported from Makassar Strait and again from Ron Bolaan, Lembah Island, North Sulawesi, Indonesia by Peristiwady and Achmad¹¹. The grub fish *Paraperccis alboguttata* was first recorded and described in the southwest coast of India by Sreenivasan and Lazarus²⁰ and later from Bombay waters by Krishna Pillai and Somavansi⁹. In addition Ramachandran *et al.*¹² reported that grub fish population is distributed throughout the southwest coast in moderate quantity. The Bay of Bengal fauna is going through a phase of enrichment by the arrival of different fish species from the southwest waters leading to increased diversity.

This paper represents the first record of the species *P.alboguttata* from northeast coast and represents a range extension in the Indian seas.

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