

A NEW RECORD OF THE GRUB FISH, *PARAPERCIS ALBOGUTTA*
(GUNTHER) FROM BOMBAY WATERS

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ABSTRACT

A Grub fish, *Parapercis albogutta* (Gunther) has been recorded from Bombay waters for the first time. Various morphometric and meristic counts have been described.

According to Day (1878) the genus, *Parapercis* (*Percis*) is represented in Indian waters (Coromandel coast - Madras) by three species viz *P. punctata*, *P. pulchella*, and *P. hexophthalma*. In the course of routine observations of fish landing at sassoon dock, Bombay, on 7-6-78, a bright coloured specimen of the genus *parapercis* was come across in one of the trawler catches. The specimen was identified as *P. albogutta* the details are given below.

Description: B VI; D 5/22; P 16; V 1|5; A 1|18; C 15; Ll. 64; L. tr. 5|13; G.R. 8+4 (6 rudiments) = 18. T. L. 157., S.L. 130.

Body measurements: Head length 32.31; pectoral length 17.69; pelvic fin length 20.00; height of first dorsal spine 3.08; 2nd spine 6.15; 3rd spine 8.85; 4th spine 9.23; 5th spine 4.62; maximum height of soft dorsal 13.08; maximum height of anal 10.77; dorsal base 44.62; caudal fin length 20.77; depth at dorsal 16.92; depth at anal 16.15; depth of caudal peduncle 6.02; predorsal 30.00; prepectoral 31.54; prepelvic 35.38; and pre anal 46.54 as percentage of standard length.

Snout 35.71; sub-orbital 19.05; post-orbital 45.24; inter-orbital 16.67; maxillary 41.67; mandible 53.38 eye diameter 23.81; width of head 52.38 and height of head 50.00 as percentage of head length.

Body cylindrical, elongate, lower jaw slightly longer. Head little depressed; scales are present on head and cheeks, snout naked, preopercular serrated at its angle. Opercle with two spines a smaller spine at the point of commencement of lateral line and another strong spine at opercular angle.

Teeth: In more than one row in both jaws. Laterally few strong curved teeth; canine teeth four in the lower jaw and two in the upper jaw, palatines edentulous, vomer with several series of teeth.

Scales: On body ctenoid, those on head, breast and belly cycloid.

Fins: Dorsal and anal fins with deeply incised membranes, 4th spine the longest, spinous and rayed dorsal fins are continuous; caudal cut square with upper rays little prolonged.

Colour: Brownish red, abdomen whitish, body with 6 dark reddish brown vertical bands alternating with blotches of the same colour. The vertical bands are interrupted in the middle at lateral line by white colour. Yellow line on opercle and few radiating from orbit. A whitish yellow patch at upper angle of orbit. Body scales are bordered with yellow colour. Dorsal fin with yellow patches. About 9-10 oblique yellow bands on anal fin. Pectoral base red in colour. Ventrals yellow, caudal fin with 6 vertical yellow bands.

Distribution: Muscat - Misol, India - South west coast - Vizhinjam.

Parapercis alboguttata has been reported from Vizhinjam (Sreenevasan and Lazarus 1973), south-west coast of India where as present is the first record from north-west coast of India.

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* Original not consulted.