

SHORT NOTES

NEW RECORD OF A SPARID FISH, *ACANTHOPAGRUS AUSTRALIS* FROM TAIWAN

CHUEN-TAN JEAN and SIN-CHE LEE

Department of Fisheries Biology, Taiwan Fisheries Research Institute,
Keelung, Taiwan 202, Republic of China

and

Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Nankang,
Taipei, Taiwan 11529, Republic of China

(Accepted December 13, 1991)

Chuen-Tan Jean and Sin-Che Lee (1992) New record of a sparid fish, *Acanthopagrus australis* from Taiwan. *Bull. Inst. Zool., Academia Sinica* 31(3): 221-223. *Acanthopagrus australis* reported here is a newly recorded sparid fish which was collected from off the northwestern coast of Taiwan. This brings the number of Taiwan sparid species in the genus *Acanthopagrus* to four. This paper provides a brief description of the species, a color illustration, and a revised key to the *Acanthopagrus* species.

Key words: New record, *Acanthopagrus australis*.

The species *Acanthopagrus australis*, belonging to the family Sparidae, was first established by Günther (1859) as *Chrysophrys australis*; the species was commonly found at that time in Australian seas, and was also known to enter rivers. The northern-most distribution of this species was recorded in Okinawa (Masuda *et al.*, 1984).

Recently, thirty-two specimens were caught off the northwestern coast of Taiwan and identified as *Acanthopagrus australis*. This record is new to Taiwan; three other cogenetic species—*Acanthopagrus berda*, *A. latus*, and *A. schlegeli*—were previously reported in 1983 by Lee. A short description of the diagnostic characteristics of this sparid, a color

photograph, and a revised key to the species of *Acanthopagrus* follow.

Methods for counting and taking measurements followed Lee's (1983) descriptions. Two of our specimens were deposited in the Museum of the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica; the remaining specimens were dissected and placed in deep freeze for electrophoretic study.

Genus *Acanthopagrus* (Peters, 1855)

Acanthopagrus australis (Günther, 1859)

(Fig. 1)

Chrysophrys australis Günther, 1859: 494 (Australia).
Sparus australis; Weber and de Beaufort, 1936: 469.
Acanthopagrus australis; Grant, 1978: 392; Masuda
et al., 1984:178.

Materials examined: ASIZP 056621,

1. Paper No. 264 of the Journal Series of the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica.
2. To whom reprint requests should be sent.

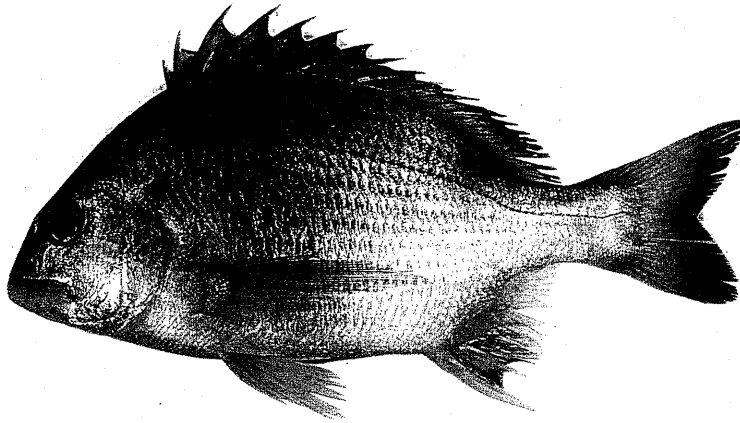


Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Acanthopagrus australis*, ASIZP. 056622, 171 mm SL.

118 mm SL, May 6, 1991; ASIZP 056622, 171 mm SL, September 10, 1991; both captured by handline off Tanshui on Taiwan northwest coast. The other 30 specimens, ranging between 138–406 mm SL, were collected at the same site and used for electrophoresis.

Diagnosis: Based on 32 specimens. D. XI, 11 (one with XII, 10); A. III, 8 (one with III, 7); P. 15 (two with 16); LI. 47–50; Ltra. 5 (three with 6); GR. 5–6+8–10; Vertebrae 9+15=24. Head 3.10–3.53 (3.28), body depth 2.03–2.37 (2.19), pectoral fin 2.47–2.82 (2.62) in standard length. Snout 3.43–4.75 (4.12), eye 3.53–4.53 (4.05), and interorbital space 3.33–3.90 (3.62) in head length. Scales on top of head extend anteriorly to hind margin of orbits. Five rows of scales (rarely 6 rows) between median dorsal spine and lateral line. Pectoral fin extends to the origin of the soft anal fin. Ventral fin is shorter, barely reaching to the anus. Caudal fin emarginate with slightly pointed lobes. Color when fresh: uniformly silver with black outer margin. Anal fin black. Pectoral fin yellowish with black spot at axial. Ventral fin yellowish to brownish. Caudal fin brownish with broad blackish margin.

Remarks: *Acanthopagrus australis* resembles *A. sivicolus* in body shape, but is

easily distinguished by its yellowish pectorals and ventrals, and strong longer second anal spine (1.42 in head length in the former vs. 2.0 in head length in the latter).

Revised key to species of genus
Acanthopagrus

1. Scale rows between median dorsal spine and lateral line 4.....2
5–6 scale rows between median dorsal spine and lateral line.....3
2. Ventral, anal, and ventral side of caudal fin yellowish.....*A. latus*
Ventral, anal, and ventral side of caudal fin greyish or black...*A. berda*
3. Six scale rows between median dorsal spine and lateral line; pectoral and caudal fins generally greyish; body side with dark transverse bands.....
.....*A. schlegeli*
Five (rarely 6) scale rows between median dorsal spine and lateral line; pectoral fin yellowish, caudal fin with broad black margin; body side without dark transverse bands.....
.....*A. australis*

REFERENCES

- Grant, E.M. (1978) *Guide to fishes*. Department of Harbours and Marine, Brisbane. 768 pp.

- Günther, A. (1859) *Catalogue of the acanthopterygian fishes in the collection of the British Museum*. Taylor and Francis, London. 1: 494-496.
- Lee, S.C. (1983) The family Sparidae (Pisces: Perciformes) of Taiwan. *J. Taiwan Mus.* 36(1): 47-55.
- Masuda, H., K. Amaoka, T. Uyeno and T. Yoshino (1984) *The fishes of the Japanese Archipelago* (revised ed.). Tokai Univ. Press, Tokyo. 437 pp.
- Peters, W. (1855) Uebersicht der in Mossambique besbach teten Fische. *Arch. Naturgeschichte* 21(2): 232-248.
- Weber, M. and L.F. de Beaufort (1936) *The fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago*. E.J. Brill Ltd., Leiden. 7: 1-607.

記臺灣新記錄之澳洲黑鯛

簡春潭 李信徹

本文報導採自臺灣西北角淡水附近沿海之一種臺灣首次發現之澳洲黑鯛(*Acanthopagrus australis*)。此一記錄使臺灣產鯛科中原有黑鯛屬(*Acanthopagrus*)之魚種數增添為四種。本文除簡扼敘述其種別特徵外，並附原色圖照以及黑鯛屬分種之檢索表以利種別之鑑定。

