

OCCURRENCE OF *EXALLIAS BREVIS* (KNER, 1868) [BLENNIIDAE : SALARIINÆ] AND *SCARTELAOS TENUIS* (DAY, 1876) [GOBIIDAE : GOBIONELLINÆ] IN INDIAN WATERS

Although the apparently monotypic genus *Exallias* Jordan and Evermann, 1905 of the blennioid fish tribe Salariaini is widely distributed in the tropical Indo-Pacific region (Smith-Vaniz and Springer, 1971, Carcassan, 1977), *Exallias brevis* was hitherto not known to inhabit Indian waters. This communication on *E. brevis* is, therefore, first from India. Coincidentally, *Scartelaos tenuis* also forms new distributional report, first from India since the original discovery and description by Day (1876) from Karachi. In the course of investigative taxonomic studies on sea fishes of Gujarat one example each of *Exallias brevis* and *Scartelaos tenuis* were noted. Brief taxonomic attributes of the species and their range of distribution is dealt hereunder.

Exallias brevis (Kner, 1868)

Salaria brevis Kner, 1868, *Sitz. Ber. Akad. Wiss. Wien*, 58 (1) : 29, 334, pl. 16, fig. 18 (type loc, Samoa).

Salaria leopardus Day, 1869, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* : 518 (type loc. Ceylon).

Blennius leopardus (Day, 1869) ; Day, 1876, *Fishes of India*, (2) : 325, pl. 68, fig. 5 (type loc. Ceylon).

Exallias brevis (Kner, 1868) : Smith-Vaniz and Springer, 1971, *Smith. Contr. Zool.*, 73 : 1-72 (Key to genera).

Material : A male specimen, 75 mm. standard length, trawled off Veraval, Gujarat, ca. 30-40 fms, 26.XI.68, Coll. A. Daniel, ZSI Regd. No. F. 7221/2.

Description : D. XII ; 13 A. II, 14 ; P. 15 ;

V. I, 4 ; Caudal rays 13. Gill rakers on first gill arch 4+12.

Body stout and robust. Depth of body approximates length of head, both 34.66% in standard length. Eye diameter 26.92%, inter-orbital 15.35%, postorbital length of head 57.60% ; all in percent of head length. Snout obtuse, not overhanging the mouth, 30.70% in head length. A pair of barbels on each side of chin. Occipital crest absent. Supraorbital cirrus multifid, a slender fleshy peduncle with 7 minute branches. Nasal cirri 5 branches. Nuchal cirri consist of an elongate, transverse series of cirri, interrupted at mid-line of nape by a narrow hiatus. Upper lip with 24 well developed crenulae, lower lip fully cremalate. Lateral line complete, no imbricate scale-like flaps covering anterior lateral line pores.

Teeth close-set, fine ; premaxillary teeth, numbering about 200 ; dentary teeth fairly rigid, number 50-60. Dentary canines absent, vomer teeth wanting. Dorsal fin with a deep notch ; terminal ray not bound by a membrane to caudal peduncle. Pectoral fin, a little shorter than head, 29.33% in SL, lower 6 rays thickened. Anal spines in mature males embedded in fleshy dark coloured pads ; terminal anal ray not bound by a membrane to caudal peduncle. Caudal emarginate, 13, middle 9 rays branched.

Colour : (in alcohol) pale brownish, whitish below ; head, body and fins covered by numerous clusters of small brown spots.

Range : Entire Indo-Pacific including Hawaii.

Scartelaos tenuis (Day, 1876)

Boleophthalmus tenuis Day, 1876, *Fishes of India* (2) : 305, pl. 1 xv, fig. 1 (type loc. Estuaries of Kurrachee).

Boleophthalmus tenuis Day, 1889, *Day, Fauna Br. India. Fish.* 2 : 282.

Scartelaos tenuis Koumans 1941, *Mem. Indian Mus.* 13 : 284 (Revision of Gobies of India).

Material : 1 ex., standard length 68 mm., Rukmati River mouth, Gujarat, 26. VII. 72, Coll. *Surya Rao*, ZSI Regd. No. F 7367/2.

Description : D V ; 1/27-28 ; A 1/25 ; P 13.

Body elongate, subcylindrical anteriorly. Frontal profile of head gently raised from bluntly pointed snout to eye. Depth of body 11.06%, head 25% in standard length. Snout 5.88% in head length. Eyes 4.4%, located in anterior third of head. Maxilla reaching posterior third of eye. Mouth oblique, upper jaw scarcely prominent. On the underside of head, on each side, 10 short barbels along lower edge of rami of lower jaw. Teeth in jaws in a single row ; caninoid in upper jaw, anteriorly subhorizontal in lower jaw, posteriorly scarcely erect. On each side in front in upper jaw 9 large canines, followed laterally by 10 much smaller teeth. A pair of canines behind symphysis of lower jaw. Spinous dorsal fin with anterior spines elongate into filaments. Soft

dorsal fin not conneted with caudal fin. Caudal lanceolate, longer than head. Ventral united oblong.

Colour : (in alcohol). Dorsal head and body brownish gray, paler below and underneath. Numerous dark spots on head and anterior body. Dark cross bars, on anterior two thirds of sides and blotches beyond. Soft dorsal fin brownish gray with 5 oblique bands in its lower half, reaching sides ; free edge lined by black followed immediately behind by a pale line. Caudal fin brownish gray ; upper margin bordered by a black and pale line in a fashion similar to soft dorsal fin ; lower half dark black spots. Anal and pelvic fins light yellowish orange.

Range : Sind and Persian Gulf (Katsuzo and Kuromma, 1972). This record extends its range further downwards to Indian waters.

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