

***Odontanthias randalli* n. sp., a new anthiine fish (Serranidae: Anthiinae) from Indonesia**

WILLIAM T. WHITE

CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research, GPO Box 1538, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000, AUSTRALIA. E-mail: william.white@csiro.au

Abstract

Odontanthias randalli, a new species of anthiine serranid fish from southeastern Indonesia, is described, bringing the number of known species in the genus to 14. The new species is clearly distinguished from other members of the genus by the following combination of characters: dorsal-fin soft rays 16–17, lateral-line scales 37 to 39, 3rd dorsal spine longest, 3rd dorsal-fin soft ray the only filamentous dorsal-fin ray, caudal fin lunate with extremely long filamentous lobes, depth of body 2.2 to 2.5 in SL, vomerine-tooth patch arrowhead shaped, and body pinkish with bright yellow spots on upper half and four pale pink blotches below dorsal-fin base. The new species is compared with other members of the genus.

Key words: *Odontanthias*, Serranidae, new species, Indo-Pacific, Indonesia

Introduction

Odontanthias Bleeker is a genus of colorful serranid fishes that belongs to the subfamily Anthiinae. Members of this genus are typically associated with deepwater reefs in 100–400 m, and thus are rarely caught by trawlers. They are also small species, <204 mm standard length, and thus not caught by mainstream hook-and-line fishing over deeper reefs targeting species such as *Epinephelus*, *Pristipomoides* and *Etelis*. Randall and Heemstra (2006) in their review of *Odontanthias* recognized 13 species, all inhabitants of the Indo-Pacific region, noted that there are relatively few specimens in museum collections, and expressed the expectation that additional species would be found in the future.

Members of this genus had previously been considered to belong to the genus *Holanthias* (e.g. Heemstra & Randall, 1986), but they differ from this eastern Atlantic genus in having a lunate or deeply emarginate caudal fin (vs. near-truncate to rounded or rhomboid) and no accessory scales on the body (vs. numerous accessory scales on body). Two Indo-Pacific anthiine species that were previously considered to belong to the genus *Holanthias* were recently placed in a new genus, *Meganthias* Randall & Heemstra, 2006, i.e. *M. kingyo* (Kon, Yoshino & Sakurai, 2000) and *M. natalensis* (Fowler, 1925). Members of *Meganthias* differ from those of *Odontanthias* in having: many accessory scales on the head (vs. rarely present on head); 8 or 9 anal-fin rays (vs. 7, rarely 8); finely serrate preopercular margin (vs. strongly serrate); lips rugose (vs. smooth); and larger size. More recently, two new species of *Meganthias* have been described: *M. carpenteri* Anderson, 2006, from off Nigeria in the Eastern Atlantic; *M. filiferus* Randall & Heemstra, 2008, from off Thailand.

Recent surveys of fish markets in southern Indonesia led to the collection of a diverse range of teleost species. At the Tanjung Luar fish market in eastern Lombok (part of the East Nusa Tenggara island chain), handline fishers operating over deep reef areas (>100 m depth) using small hooks collected a variety of interesting species. Included in these catches were specimens of *Odontanthias*, comprising a single specimen of *O. borbonius* (Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1828) and 11 specimens that were clearly representatives of an undescribed species. This new species of *Odontanthias* from off southern Indonesia is described herein.