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Redescription of *Sillago* (*Parasillago*) *indica* McKay, Dutt & Sujatha, 1985 (Perciformes: Sillaginidae), with a reassignment to the subgenus *Sillago*

TATSUYA KAGA¹ & HSUAN-CHING HO²

¹Osaka Animal Plants Ocean College, 1-7-3 Sangenyahigashi, Taisho, Osaka 551-0002, Japan.

E-mail: sonekaga@tcct.zaq.ne.jp

²National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium; Institute of Marine Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Checheng, Pingtung 944, Taiwan.

E-mail: ogcoho@gmail.com

Abstract

The Indian sillago, *Sillago indica* McKay, Dutt & Sujatha, 1985, is redescribed on the basis of three paratypes and two newly collected specimens. The presence of two posterior extensions of the swimbladder instead of one suggests that it belongs to the subgenus *Sillago*. Comments on its subgeneric status and comparisons with members of *Sillago* (*Sillago*) are provided. Two specimens collected from Vietnam represent the first record of the species from the South China Sea, western Pacific Ocean.

Key words: Indian sillago, *Sillago* (*Sillago*) *indica*, swimbladder, new record, Vietnam

Introduction

The sand whiting family Sillaginidae currently comprises 33 species in three genera (*Sillaginodes* Gill 1862, *Sillaginopsis* Gill 1861, and *Sillago* Cuvier 1817) and three subgenera (*Sillaginopodys* Fowler 1933, *Sillago* and *Parasillago* McKay 1985) of the genus *Sillago* (McKay 1985, 1992; Kaga *et al.* 2010; Gao *et al.* 2011). Because of the great similarity in shape and coloration of sillaginid species, examination of the shape of the swimbladders is essential to identify the species (McKay 1992).

The Indian sillago, *Sillago indica* McKay, Dutt & Sujatha, 1985, was described under the subgenus *Parasillago* because of its having a single posterior extension and a duct-like process of the swimbladder. We examined the swimbladder of two paratypes (BMNH 1985.8.13.1 and QM I20386); they appeared nearly identical to the illustration of the structure in the original description (McKay *et al.* 1985: fig. 5E) with two anterior extensions, two anterolateral extensions and many lateral processes of the swimbladder. However, our examination also revealed two posterior extensions, not one as shown in the original illustration. One extension can be seen easily via the previous authors' dissection; another extension remained buried in the caudal muscle, thus suggesting that *Sillago indica* does not belong in the subgenus *Parasillago* but instead in the subgenus *Sillago*.

Two specimens (173.4–174.2 mm SL) of *S. indica* were recently collected from the market of Phant Thiet, central Vietnam. As the species had previously been known only from the east and west coasts of India (McKay 1985, 1992), these new specimens represent the first record from Vietnam, as well as the South China Sea, western Pacific Ocean.

Materials and methods

Methods for taking measurements and counts follow Kaga *et al.* (2010). Institutional abbreviations follow Fricke & Eschmeyer (2011). Comparative data are taken from Kaga *et al.* (2010).