

A Note on the Occurrence of *Sacura boulengeri* (Pisces: Serrinidae) along Pakistan Coast

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Abstract

Sacura boulengeri (Heemstra) was recorded for the first time from the coast of Pakistan. This anthiaine species, which is endemic in the north Arabian Sea, is known through five male specimens collected from the Gulf of Oman. Present paper extends its distribution to further north to the coast of Pakistan.

Keywords: *Sacura boulengeri*, Pakistan coast, anthiaine

Introduction

Genus *Sacura* was established by Jordan and Richardson (1910) to accommodate *Anthias margaritaceus*, which was described by Hilgenclof (1879) from Japan. Later on Heemstra and Randall (1979) assigned *Anthias formosus*. Boulenger, 1889 to *Sacura boulengeri*. Two, more species i.e. *Sacura parva* and *Sacura speciosa* were described from Timor Sea and Mamdano Bay, Celebes Indonesia respectively by Heemstra and Randall (1979).

Boulenger (1889, 1895) described *Anthias formosa* from Muscat Oman. Since this name was preoccupied by *Anthias formosa* described by Bloch (1792) from Antilles, therefore the former was renamed as *Anthias boulengeri* by Heemstra (1973). Heemstra and Randall (1979) assigned *Anthias boulengeri* to genus *Sacura*. Genus *Sacura* could be distinguished from genus *Anthias* is having deeper body, longer head, different shape of dorsal and anal fins and in having fewer caudal fin rays.

In April 1999, a specimen of *Sacura boulengeri* was collected from of Sindh coast ($23^{\circ} 56' N 66^{\circ} 31' E$ (90m) during commercial trawl fishing. The specimen was found to be a male having a total length of 17 cm.

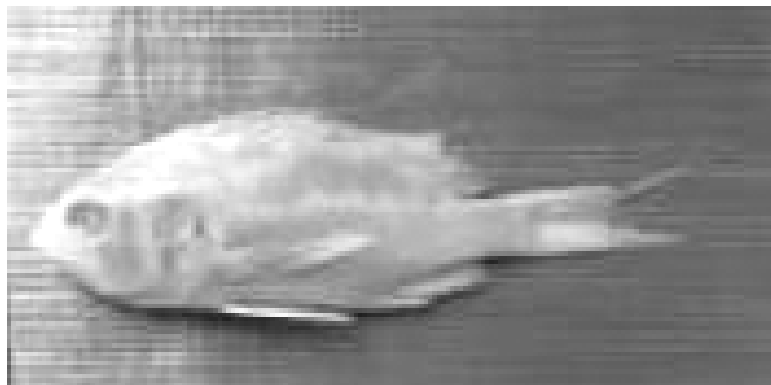


Fig. 1. *Sacura boulengeri* (Heemstra, 1973).

Synonyms:

Anthias formosus Boulenger 1889. p. 238 (holotype from Mascat Oman); Boulenger, 1895. p. 322, 326, pl.14.

Anthias boulengeri Heemstra, 1973. p. 206, fig 2.

Sacura boulengeri, Heemstra and Randall, 1979. p. 3-4, pl .1.

Remarks:

The specimen from Pakistan comes in confirmation with the description given by Boulenger (1889,1895), Heemstra (1973) and Heemstra and Randall (1979). Measurements are given in Table-1 which indicates that various parameters of specimens from Sindh Coast fall within the range of percentages given in Heemstra and Randall (1979). This species is known from 5 specimen, all of them male (Heemstra and Randall 1979), therefore the present specimen is 6th specimen of the species. This specimen is also a male, therefore, the female of this species is hitherto unknown. This anthiine species, which is endemic in the north Arabian Sea, was known from the Gulf of Oman (Heemstra and Randall, 1979; Randall, 1995). Present paper extends its distribution to further north into offshore waters of Pakistan.

Table –1 Measurements of *Sacura boulengeri* from Pakistan in present of slandered length (SL) or head length (HL)

Measurements	Specimen from Pakistan	After Heemstra and Randall, 1979
Greater body depth(SL%)	41.67	41-43
Head length(SL%)	39.17	42-43
Pectoral fin length(SL%)	29.17	29-32
Pelvic fin length (SL%)	28.34	25-29
Caudal peduncle length (SL%)	20.84	20-22
Caudal peduncle depth(SL%)	12.50	12-14
First dorsal spine length (SL%)	5.84	6.4-7.3
Second dorsal spine length (SL%)	7.50	9.7-11
Third dorsal spine length (SL%)	5.50	52-66
Fourth dorsal spine length (SL%)	14.17	13-15
Third dorsal soft ray length (SL%)	47.50	50-52
Anal fin length (SL%)	32.50	33-36
First Anal spine length (SL%)	7.50	7.6-8.0
Second Anal spine length (SL%)	15.00	14-17
Second anal soft ray length (SL%)	25.00	26-29
Pelvic fin spine (SL%)	15.00	15-18
Snout length (HL%)	21.28	20-21
Orbit diameter (HL%)	27.66	26-28
Intertribal width (HL%)	23.41	20-22
Postorbital diameter (HL%)	53.50	53-56
Upper jaw length (HL%)	42.56	43-44
Maxilla depth (HL%)	17.30	14-16

Sacura boulengeri can be distinguished from other species of *Sacura* in having 14 dorsal fin rays (15-18 in other species), more (30-35) gill rakers (22-29 in other species) and in having head length greater than body length (body length greater than head length in all other species)

Genus *Sacura* is known through only a few species and unknown as much of its ecology and biology are not fully understood. Okada (1965) and Suzuki *et al* (1974) studied sex reversal and ecology of *Sacura margaritacea* respectively. Such information about other species is totally lacking.

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