

***Paramonacanthus oblongus*, the correct name for the Indo-Pacific fish currently called *P. japonicus*, with a recommendation on the nomenclature of *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Tetraodontiformes, Monacanthidae)**

Anthony C. Gill¹ and J. Barry Hutchins²

¹Department of Zoology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, U.K.

²Department of Aquatic Zoology, Western Australian Museum, Francis Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000, Australia

Members of the monacanthid genus *Paramonacanthus* Bleeker are small fishes (commonly known as leatherjackets and filefishes) that inhabit flat silty and sandy bottoms throughout the Indo-West Pacific. The genus was recently revised by Hutchins (1997), who recognised 11 species. Among these was *P. japonicus* (Tilesius, 1810) from the eastern Indian and West Pacific Oceans. However, we have since discovered that Tilesius's name is preoccupied and here correct the nomenclature of the species, as well as provide a new recommendation concerning *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Schlegel, 1850) from Japan and China.

Paramonacanthus japonicus was originally described (as *Balistes japonicus*) by Tilesius (1810) on the basis of a single specimen (presently lost) from Japan (see Hutchins, 1997: 29). However, Tilesius was unaware that *Balistes japonicus* had been used earlier by Walbaum (1792). Walbaum's description is very brief, but is nevertheless sufficient to make the name available:

"Species adhuc dubiae"

20. BALISTES, *japonicus*, radii pinnae dorsalis 3 v. 4. W. Balistes monoceros. Einhörniche Hoornvisch. Houttuyni. Act. Harl. XX. P. 2. n. 33. D. 3-4. P. 13. V ... A... C. 14. Longitudo 6 unciarum. Color subfuscus vel cinereus. Anteriorum radiorum unus exit in longum filum."

This indicates that Walbaum's description was based on the earlier account of Houttuyn (1782) under the name *Balistes monoceros*. Houttuyn's description (p. 345) is reproduced here:

"34. (stated as 33 by Walbaum) BALISTES MONOCEROS.

Eenhoornige Hoornvisch

Van deezen Visch, die in de beide Indien huisvest, heb ik een schoon groot Exemplaar van Japan ontvangen. Het is meer dan zes Duimen lang, en overtrest dus in groote de Afbeelding van een zodanigen, welke ik volgens een Voorwerp, uit het Kabinet van den Wel Ed. Heer W. VAN DER MEULEN, nu ruim zestien Jaaren geleeden, aan't licht bragt (h). In Kleur niet alleen, die bruin is of graauw, mar ook in de telling der Vinstraalen, komt het daar

mede vry wel overeen: want ik vind in de Rugvin en Aarsvin, beiden, drie of vierendertig, in de Borstvinnen dertien, en in de Staartvin veertien Straalen. Het byzonderste is, dat een der voorsten van de Rugvin uitloopt in een langen Draad."

Our translation of Houttuyn's description is as follows:

"These fish that live in both Indies I have received a good example from Japan. It is more than 6 thumbs long. I compared it with a figure of something similar which was brought to light 16 years ago from the cabinet of Mr W. van der Meulen. It compares well not only in colour which is dull brown but also in the fin rays: the back fin and anal fin both three or four and thirty (= thirty-three or thirty-four), the breast fin thirteen and the tail fin fourteen rays. The most outstanding feature is the first of the back fin which runs in one long thread."

Walbaum's description deviates from Houttuyn's in several features, most notably in recording only 3-4 dorsal rays and not providing a count for the anal fin. We surmise that this may have resulted from confusion over his translation of Houttuyn's phrase: "want ik vind in de Rugvin en Aarsvin, beiden, drie of vierendertig" (see above). Apparently it was also enough to cause subsequent workers to ignore Walbaum's name.

Houttuyn's description appears to have been based on a species belonging to the Monacanthidae. It was, as stated in the introduction to Houttuyn's paper, collected by Carel (= Carl) Thunberg in Japan and provided to Houttuyn through the auspices of J.C.M. Radermacher. The meristic values—allowing for a count of 14 caudal-fin rays which is two more than is typical for the family—and elongate, threadlike filament in the dorsal fin suggest that it was based on *Stephanolepis cirrhifer* (Schlegel, 1850). There are no balistids in the Japanese region that possess an elongate ray anteriorly in the soft dorsal fin and the only other Japanese monacanthid so adorned is *Pervagor nigrolineatus* (Herre), a species that occurs in the



Gill, Anthony C. and Hutchins, J. Barry. 2002. "Paramonacanthus oblongus, the Correct Name for the Indo-pacific Fish Currently Called P. japonicus, With a Recommendation on the Nomenclature of Stephanolepis cirrhifer (Tetraodontiformes, Monacanthidae)." *Records of the Western Australian Museum* 21(1), 107–107.

[https://doi.org/10.18195/issn.0312-3162.21\(1\).2002.107-109](https://doi.org/10.18195/issn.0312-3162.21(1).2002.107-109).

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/220748>

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.18195/issn.0312-3162.21\(1\).2002.107-109](https://doi.org/10.18195/issn.0312-3162.21(1).2002.107-109)

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/220897>

Holding Institution

Western Australian Museum

Sponsored by

Atlas of Living Australia

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.