

FIRST RECORD OF *STIGMATOGOBIUS DURBANENSIS* (PISCES :
GOBIIDAE) FROM INDIAN WATERS

The gobioid, *Stigmatogobius durbanensis* (Barnard) is known so far only from its type locality in the western Indian ocean (Smith, 1960). Recently, the author discovered four well-preserved specimens of this rather rare gobioid from the Orissa coast. The present communication reports the occurrence of this gobioid for the first time in Indian waters thereby extending its range to the central Indian ocean.

The genus *Stigmatogobius* Bleeker is represented by 21 species in the Indo-Pacific region. Of these, nine species including the present one are known from Indian waters : *S. sadanundio* (Hamilton), *S. poicilosoma* (Bleeker), *S. hoevenii* (Bleeker), *S. oligactis* (Bleeker), *S. roemeri* Weber, *S. minima* (Hora), *S. durbanensis* (Barnard), *S. yanamensis* Visweswara Rao and *S. micrognathus* Visweswara Rao.

A brief description of *Stigmatogobius durbanensis* is given below.

Stigmatogobius durbanensis* (Barnard)

(Plate VIII)

Gobius durbanensis Barnard, 1927, *Ann. S. Afr. Mus.*, 21 : 815. (type locality : Durban Bay).

Stigmatogobius durbanensis : Smith, 1960, *Ichthyol. Bull. Rhodes Univ.*, (18) : 306.

Material : 4 specimens, 16-27 mm. standard length ; Orissa coast, no further data ; Z. S. I. Regd. No. F 7651/2.

Description : D₁ VI, D₂ I, 7 ; A I, 7 ; V I, 5 ; P 15-16 ; C 16 (segmented rays) ; scales : lat. sr. 36-38, tr. sr. 10-11, pred. sr. 15-16.

Body elongated, somewhat compressed posteriorly ; head depressed. Depth of body 18.4-20.3%, length of head 27.7-30.0%, both in standard length. Predorsal distance 38.8-42.5%, preanal distance 56.2-61.1%, preventral distance 34.4-37.5% in standard length. Eye 25.3-29.1%, snout 26.6-29.1% in head length. Maxilla extending to vertical from mid-eye to posterior margin of eye, 40.9-46.6% in head length. Anterior nostril tubular. Tip of tongue rounded. Teeth in jaws multiserial, close-set, outer rows somewhat enlarged ; in lower jaw, outer row extends to half of jaw length ; no canines. Only nasal sensory canal-pores present. Scales ctenoid, on nape and operculum weakly ctenoid, on breast and belly cycloid. Head scaled above behind eyes, the foremost scale a large unpaired one in the median line. Preoperculum naked, operculum scaled in the upper part. Caudal fin rounded, shorter than head.

Colour, in alcohol : yellowish brown, with faint irregular cross-bands. Dorsal fins with brownish spots arranged in two longitudinal rows ; caudal fin also spotted.

Remarks : The present specimens agree well with the original description of the species but have a lesser number (10-11 vs. 12) of scales in the transverse series.

* While the manuscript of this communication was in press, the author received the paper of Hoese & Winterbottom (1979, *Occ. Pap. Life Sci. R. Ont. Mus.*, (31) : 4) wherein *durbanensis* is placed in the genus *Mugilogobius* Smitt. 1899.

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REFERENCE

- SMITH, J. L. B. 1960. Fishes of the family Gobiidae in South Africa. *Ichthyol. Bull. Rhodes Univ.*, (18) : 299-314.

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