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# Two Pomacentrid Fishes, *Pristotis jerdoni* and *Pomacentrus vaiuli*, from the Ryukyu Islands

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**Abstract** The pomacentrid fishes *Pristotis jerdoni* and *Pomacentrus vaiuli* are reported from Okinawa Island, Ryukyu Islands, for the first time. The former is recorded as new to the ichthyofauna of Japan. Descriptions are provided for both species. Comparisons of *Pristotis jerdoni* from Okinawa Island with conspecifics from the Persian Gulf show only slight differences in measurements. Similarities of *P. jerdoni* and the monotypic *Teixeirichthys jordani* are also discussed, both from the standpoint of morphology and behavior. Specimens of *Pomacentrus vaiuli* from Okinawa Island are compared with conspecifics from Miyake-jima, Japan, and Guam.

Two pomacentrid fishes, *Pristotis jerdoni* (Day) and *Pomacentrus vaiuli* Jordan et Seale, are newly reported from Okinawa Island, Ryukyu Islands. The genus *Pristotis* is recorded from Japan for the first time. *Pristotis jerdoni* is found rarely at Okinawa Island. *Pomacentrus vaiuli* occurs widely in the tropical Indo-Pacific, and was recently reported from Miyake-jima, Izu Islands, with a photograph but no description (Shepard and Moyer, 1980).

A description of Ryukyu Island specimens of *P. jerdoni* is given, along with a comparison of materials from off Sarawak, the South China Sea and Persian Gulf, in order to analyze geographical variation in this species. *P. vaiuli* from Okinawa is also described and compared with materials from Miyake-jima and Guam. The westward extension of its geographical range is discussed.

## Genus *Pristotis* Rüppell, 1838, in Rüppel, 1835～1840

(New Japanese name: Oki-suzumedai zoku)

### *Pristotis jerdoni* (Day, 1873)

(New Japanese name: Oki-suzumedai)
(Fig. 1)

**Materials.** Ryukyu Is.: One specimen, MTUF (Museum, Tokyo University of Fisheries) 23446, male, 75.0 mm in standard length (SL), September 25, 1977: caught by set net from inshore waters at a depth of about 15 m at Ishikawa (26°26′N, 127°50′E), Katsuren Peninsula, Okinawa Island. Sarawak: Two specimens, MTUF 23442, male, 84.5 mm in SL, MTUF 23445, male, 80.3 mm in SL, November 17, 1972: trawl net offshore at Sarawak (4°N, 111°E), South China Sea, by Hitoshi Ida. Persian Gulf: Two specimens, MTUF 24281, sex undetermined, 61.0 mm in SL, MTUF 24285, sex undetermined, 66.0 mm in SL, December 10, 1968: trawl net (24°46′N, 53°27′E) by Katsuzo Kuronuma.

Comparative material: *Teixeirichthys jordani* (Rutter, 1897). One specimen, NTUM (National Taiwan University Museum), 05052 55.6 mm in SL, June 28, 1973: at Peng-hu, Pescadores, Taiwan, by S.L. Cuan.

**Description of Japanese specimen** (MTUF 23446). Depth of body highest below third dorsal spine. Mouth oblique, upper jaw reaching to anterior margin of eye. Posterior margin of preopercle weakly serrated, interopercle and subopercle smooth, and opercle armed with two obtuse flat spines, upper one smaller than lower. Each jaw with uniserial conical teeth, larger anteriorly. Tubed lateral line scales running from upper end of gill opening to below sixth soft dorsal ray, a series of 12 pored scales mid-laterally on caudal peduncle to caudal base. Dorsal spine longer gradually to third. Posterior margin of pectoral rounded, anal and dorsal slightly pointed. Caudal fin forked, upper lobe filamentous. No scaly sheath on bases of spinous dorsal and anal.

Squamation of head: Head scaly, scaled part extending to interorbital space. Infraorbital, suborbital, nostril region and chin naked. Four

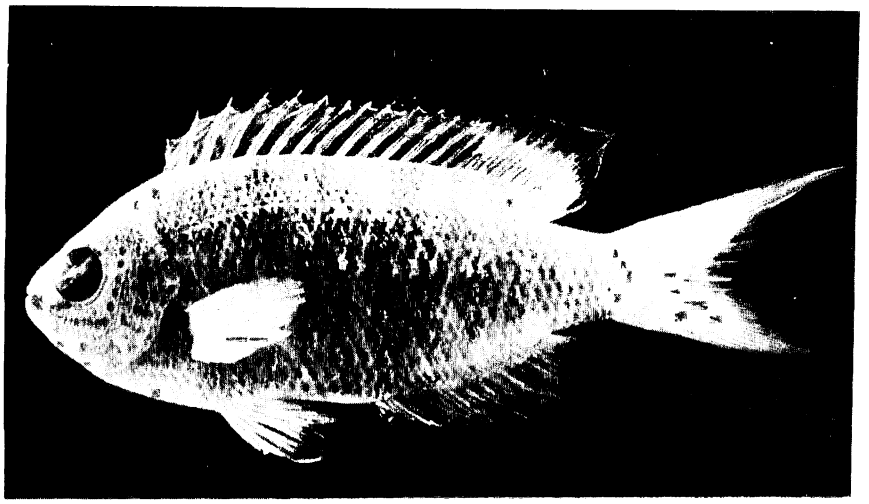

Fig. 1. *Pristotis jerdoni,* MTUF 23446, 75.0 mm SL, from Ishikawa, Okinawa Island.

scale rows on preopercle (Fig. 2A).

Color when alive: Body uniformly greenish brown. Dorsal and anal more greenish; caudal fin slightly yellowish; pelvic and pectoral fins transparent. Preopercle with black spots along its margin; a black line between infraorbital and preopercle; four longitudinal series of black spots on preopercle. Small black blotch at the upper portion of pectoral fin base. When under stress, obscure white bands appear on caudal base and caudal fin. Spots on preopercle disappear after preservation.

Internal characters: Predorsal bone one, inserted in front of second neural spine, first and second interneural spines inserted between second and third neural spines, the other dorsal spine, pterygiophores and neural spines correspond one to one, while the pterygiophores of soft dorsal and neural spines correspond two to one, first neural spine short. Neural spine of penultimate centra broad and low, last two haemal spines autogenous to penultimate and antepenultimate centra. Hypural bones five, fifth hypural small, uroneural fused with urostylar vertebra, epural three. Counts of hypurals follow Gosline (1961).

**Remarks.** *Pristotis jerdoni* is distributed widely in the tropical Indo-Pacific (Day, 1873; Montalban, 1928; Fowler and Bean, 1928; Beaufort, 1940; Munro, 1955, 1967; Allen, 1975); in China (Fowler, 1954) and Taiwan (Allen, 1975; Shen and Chan, 1978). Other species belonging to this genus (*P. cyanostigma* Rüppell and *P. judithae* Tyler) are found only in the Indian Ocean (Smith, 1960; Tyler, 1966).

Although they have been described with considerable variation by many authors, meristic and some proportional measurements of this species show only a few differences between the three areas for which we have materials, i.e. Okinawa, Sarawak, and the Persian Gulf (Table 1). The basal lengths of dorsal and anal fins and third dorsal spine length tend to be proportionally larger in the Okinawan specimen. Eye diameter and first anal spine length are greater in Persian Gulf specimens.

Fishes of *Pristotis* are very similar in external and internal characters to the monotypic *Teixeirichthys jordani* except for squamation (Table 1). Osteological comments will be discussed in our next paper.

The habitat of this species seems to differ from that of other pomacentrid fishes. Montalban (1928) stated that *P. jerdoni* is caught in trawl nets. *Teixeirichthys mossambicus* Smith (synonymized by Shen and Chan (1978) with *T. jordani* (Rutter)) reported from Japan by Yamakawa (1966) was also taken in trawl nets.

***Pomacentrus vaiuli*** Jordan et Seale, 1906
(New Japanese name: Kohaku-suzumedai)
(Fig. 3)

**Materials.** Ryukyu Is.: Three specimens: MTUF 24284, 60.2 mm in SL, female, May 30,

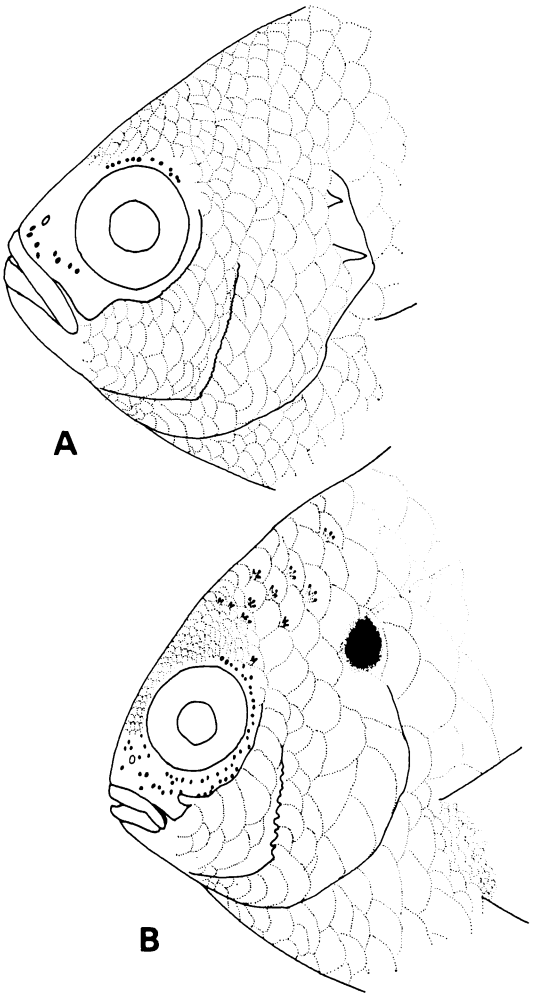


Fig. 2. Serration of preopercle and squamation of head of *Pristotis jerdoni* (A) and *Pomacentrus vaiuli* (B).

1978; caught by dip net at a depth of about 20 m, near boulders in dead coral at Seragaki (26°30′N, 127°53′E), Okinawa Island; MTUF 24282, 56.1 mm in SL, sex undetermined, June 3, 1979: caught by dip net at a depth of about 7 m at Bise (26°49′N, 127°51′E), Motobu Peninsula, Okinawa Island; MTUF 24283, 19.6 mm in SL, sex undetermined, May 26, 1979: caught by dip net at a depth of about 70 cm, near a living *Acropora* coral at Kabira Bay (24°28′N, 124°04′E), Ishigaki Island. Miyake-jima: 4 specimens: TMBS (Tatsuo Tanaka Memorial Biological Station) 730922, 41.5 mm in SL, September 22, 1973: screen net, Igaya Bay; TMBS 760926, 31.0 mm in SL, September 26, 1976: screen net, Igaya Bay; TMBS 770815, 52.3 mm in SL, August 15, 1977: screen net, Igaya Bay; TMBS 800322, 65.4 mm in SL, March 22, 1980: screen net, at a depth of 16 m, Igaya Bay (Shepard and Moyer, 1980: pl. 1G). Marianas: 5 specimens: UG (University of Guam) 4887, 36.0 mm in SL, August 18, 1970: by spear at a depth of 5.5 m, at Unai Magpi reef front, Saipan; UG 1387, 64.5 mm in SL, November 2, 1965: by spear at a depth of 25～45 m, at a reef off Lows Island; UG 1390, 51.0 mm in SL, May 15, 1966; by poison, at a depth of 4 m, at Epao Beach, Guam; UG 5191-1, 53.6 mm in SL, August 15, 1970: by poison, depth unknown, at Beach Cave Cove, Tinian; UG 5191-2, 34.3 mm in SL, August 15, 1970: by poison, depth unknown, at Beach Cave Cove, Tinian.

**Description.** Counts and proportional measurements expressed in percentage of SL (Table 2). Body deep and compressed. Depth of body highest below third dorsal spine. Mouth terminal and oblique. Upper jaw reaches to anterior margin of pupil. Posterior margin of preopercle serrated, interopercle and subopercle smooth. Lower margin of infraorbital with large crevices. Each jaw with flat cutting biserial teeth only anteriorly, posterior row attached to anterior one. Tubed lateral line scales running from the uppermost of gill opening to below soft ray, a series of eight pored scales mid-laterally on caudal peduncle to caudal base. Dorsal spines longer gradually to fifth. Posterior margin of anal and dorsal fin round, caudal fin slightly forked. Base of spinous dorsal and anal scaly (Fig. 3).

Squamation of head: Opercles covered with ctenoid scales; forehead with small scales extending to nostril region; orbitals, isthmus and chin naked (Fig. 2B).

Color when alive: In Okinawan individuals, ground color of body reddish brown; back darker and belly slightly paler. Pelvic and caudal fins yellowish, but border of body and caudal fin similarly colored, not as *P. flavicauda* and *P. bankanensis*, both of which are abruptly white either on caudal peduncle and caudal fin (*P. bankanensis*) or on caudal fin (*P. flavicauda*). Anal with two pale stripes along outer margin. Most scales on body with two or three dark long spots, giving the appearance of blue stripes

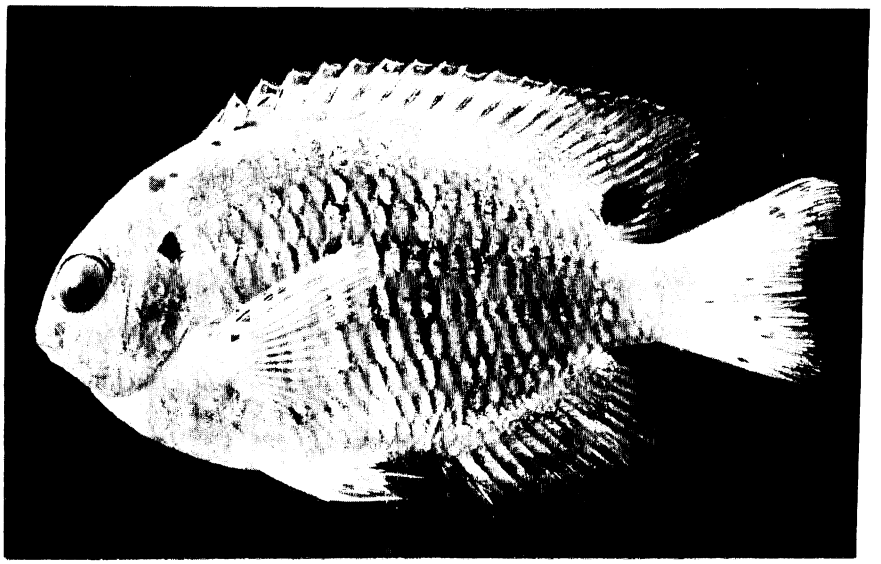

Fig. 3. *Pomacentrus vaiuli,* MTUF 24284, 60.2 mm SL, from Seragaki, Okinawa Island.

Table 1. Counts and proportional measurements of specimens of *Pristotis jerdoni* from Okinawa, Sarawak and the Persian Gulf, and *Texeirichthys jordani* from Taiwan. Proportional measurements are expressed in percentage of standard length.

| | *Pristotis jerdoni* | | | | | *Teixeirichthys jordani* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sarawak | | Okinawa | Persian Gulf | | Taiwan |
| | MTUF 23442 | MTUF 23445 | MTUF 23446 | MTIF 24285 | MTUF 24281 | NTUM 05052 |
| Standard length (mm) | 84.5 | 80.3 | 75.0 | 66.0 | 61.0 | 55.6 |
| Snout to dorsal origin | 28.6 | 29.6 | 29.9 | 30.6 | 30.0 | 33.4 |
| Snout to anal origin | 64.9 | 61.5 | 60.0 | 60.0 | 67.0 | 61.2 |
| Body depth | 39.2 | 41.7 | 40.5 | 38.9 | 37.4 | 42.3 |
| Head length | 30.7 | 29.0 | 29.5 | 30.6 | 32.0 | 32.0 |
| Snout length | 7.6 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 8.8 | 8.3 |
| Eye diameter | 8.6 | 8.7 | 8.5 | 10.5 | 10.3 | 10.1 |
| Interorbital width | 8.3 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 10.6 | 9.7 | 9.4 |
| Caudal peduncle depth | 14.2 | 14.9 | 14.7 | 14.2 | 12.3 | 14.4 |
| Pelvic fin length | 23.0 | 23.0 | 23.3 | 22.7 | 22.1 | 23.2 |
| Pectoral fin length | 22.1 | 23.3 | 24.0 | 23.2 | 21.2 | 23.6 |
| Length of dorsal-fin base | 62.4 | 61.3 | 63.9 | 62.1 | 57.4 | 63.7 |
| Length of anal-fin base | 28.4 | 28.3 | 31.7 | 28.3 | 27.2 | 30.2 |
| 3rd dorsal spine length | 10.9 | 9.7 | 13.2 | 10.6 | 10.8 | 14.2 |
| 1st anal spine length | 7.8 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 8.9 | 8.5 | 9.4 |
| 2nd anal spine length | 10.7 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 12.4 | 11.6 | 12.6 |
| Dorsal fin | XIII, 13 | XIII, 12 | XIII, 13 | XIII, 13 | XIII, 13 | XIII, 13 |
| Anal fin | II, 14 | II, 14 | II, 14 | II, 14 | II, 14 | II, 14 |
| Pectoral fin | ii, 15 | ii, 15 | ii, 17 | ii, 16 | ii, 15 | ii, 16 |
| Lateral line scales | 20 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 |
| Longitudinal scale rows | 31 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 29 | 42 |
| L. transverse scale rows | 6+10 | 5+9 1/2 | 5+9 1/2 | 5+10 | 5+10 | 6+13 |
| Vertebrae | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 |

running from the posterior margin of the eye to the caudal peduncle. Dorsal fin the same color as body with a black ocellus between ninth and 13th dorsal ray, fringed bluish white anteriorly. A dark spot smaller than pupil at upper end of gill opening. No blotch or spot on pectoral base. Miyake-jima individuals appear darker in body color than those from Okinawa, but blue stripes and blotches are as in Okinawan specimens.

Color of juveniles of this species is similar to that of *P. bankanensis* and *P. flavicauda,* but is distinguishable from *P. bankanensis* as follows: not reddish on head and no blue lines on mid-dorsal surface, position of dorsal ocellus more posterior, but similar in size. Differs from *P. flavicauda* by the presence of a blue line on head (no line in *P. flavicauda*). Furthermore, the body color of *P. bankanensis* and *P. flavicauda* contrast sharply with the adjacent caudal peduncle, as in adults.

Color after preservation: Fringed white area of dorsal ocellus disappears. Spots on scales turn black.

Internal characters: Predorsal bones three, the first inserted in front of first neural spine; the second and third inserted between first and second neural spines of vertebrae together with the first and second interneural spines. Other dorsal spine pterygiophores of soft dorsal and neural spines correspond two to one. Number and fusion of each element of caudal skeleton same as *P. jerdoni.*

**Ecological notes.** This species is solitary, inhabiting crevices and cavities in coral and boulders. It is a browsing herbivore (Hiatt and Strasburg, 1960). In Kabira Bay, this species commonly defends territories under boulders and at the lower part of coral walls on the outer reef, at more than 10 m in depth. A single juvenile (19.6 mm in SL) was found in branching coral (*Acropora* sp.) at a depth of 70 cm, on a large coral rock facing the tidal current, but adults were never observed at such depths. At Seragaki and Motobu, the habitat of *P. vaiuli* was the same as in Kabira Bay. They were observed commonly, but solitarily. Specimens were collected at more than 15 m

Table 2. Counts and proportional measurements of *Pomacentrus vaiuli* from Okinawa, Miyake-jima and the Marianas. Proportional measurements are expressed in percentage of standard length.

| | Okinawa | | Miyake-jima | | | Marianas | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MTUF 24282 | MTUF 24284 | TMBS 800322 | TMBS 730922 | TMBS 770815 | UG 1390 | UG 5191-1 | UG 5191-2 |
| Standard length (mm) | 56.1 | 60.2 | 65.4 | 41.5 | 52.3 | 51.0 | 53.6 | 34.3 |
| Snout to dorsal origin | 38.3% | 38.7% | 37.8% | 39.9% | 38.9% | 39.6% | 39.9% | 39.4% |
| Snout to anal origin | 64.0 | 65.8 | 63.6 | 66.7 | 65.3 | 72.1 | 66.0 | 67.6 |
| Body depth | 48.5 | 53.2 | 49.2 | 51.3 | 49.0 | 47.9 | 54.3 | 50.4 |
| Head length | 30.5 | 31.0 | 30.6 | 30.0 | 33.4 | 31.5 | 33.6 | 33.8 |
| Snout length | 8.7 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 8.1 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.0 | 8.7 |
| Eye diameter | 9.3 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 11.0 | 9.7 | 10.5 | 11.2 | 12.5 |
| Interorbital width | 9.8 | 10.7 | 10.6 | 9.0 | 10.3 | 8.9 | 8.4 | 9.9 |
| Pelvic fin length | 31.4 | 29.2 | 24.9 | 31.8 | 28.6 | 36.2 | 32.6 | 36.4 |
| Pectoral fin length | 31.7 | 29.3 | 30.0 | 31.1 | 25.4 | 33.1 | 31.7 | 31.2 |
| Basal length of dorsal fin | 65.2 | 67.3 | 67.4 | 65.5 | 63.9 | 64.6 | 65.7 | 61.8 |
| Basal length of anal fin | 29.4 | 30.7 | 32.0 | 30.6 | 30.3 | 33.9 | 29.9 | 31.2 |
| 3rd dorsal spine length | 8.7 | 9.3 | 9.5 | 11.2 | 9.2 | 11.1 | 12.1 | 12.8 |
| 2nd anal spine length | 14.3 | 13.3 | 14.5 | 14.0 | 14.1 | 17.0 | 18.5 | 16.9 |
| Dorsal fin | XIII, 16 | XIII, 15 | XIII, 15 | XIII, 16 | XIII, 15 | XIII, 15 | XIII, 16 | XIII, 15 |
| Anal fin | II, 16 | II, 16 | II, 16 | II, 17 | II, 16 | II, 15 | II, 16 | II, 16 |
| Pectoral fin | ii, 15 | ii, 15 | ii, 15 | ii, 17 | ii, 16 | ii, 15 | ii, 14 | ii, 14 |
| Lateral line scales | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 17 |
| Longitudinal scale rows | 26 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 26 | — | 26 | 26 |
| L. tranverse scale rows | 3+10 | 3+10 | 3+10 | 3+9 | 3+10 | 3+9 | 3+8 | 3+9 |
| *Vertebrae* | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 | 11+15 |

in depth, along with other pomacentrids (*Chromis atripes, C. ovatiformis, Pomacentrus melanopterus,* etc.) in Seragaki and Motobu. We have seen it since 1972, and have known as many as 5 individuals to occur in close proximity to each other, at Igaya Bay, Miyake-jima. Although Hiatt and Strasburg (1960) state that this solitary species lives in crevices and is abundant around living coral patches in waters 1.2～45 m in depth on all reefs, at Miyake-jima it occurs in deep crevices along lava cliffs in more than 15 m. Spawning behavior was observed at Miyake-jima in August, 1978, and Shepard and Moyer (1980) confirmed that this species survives Miyake-jima winters. The male takes on courtship colors similar to those described for *Pomacentrus nagasakienis* by Honda and Imai (1973) and Moyer (1975).

*Pomacentrus vaiuli* is known to range from the Molucca Islands, Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Fiji Islands, to Miyake-jima (Jordan and Seale, 1906; Woods and Schultz, 1960; Allen, 1975; Shepard and Moyer, 1980). This report extends its range from the mid-Pacific and Izu Islands to the Ryukyu Islands. Further research may show that it also occurs in Taiwan and the Philippines. Indeed, Jones et al. (1973) reported it from transect surveys of the waters of southern Taiwan, but no specimens were collected. Shen and Chan (1978) did not include it in their list of pomacentrids from Taiwan.

**Remarks.** Geographical variation in color was noted in the comparison of specimens from Okinawa Island, Miyake-jima, and the Marianas. In life, Miyake-jima individuals appear darker than those from Okinawa and the Marianas. The blue spots on the scales of specimens from Okinawa and the Marianas are clearer than on Miyake-jima individuals. After preservation, the blue spots on the scales of Okinawan and Miyake-jima specimens turn weakly black, while those from the Marianas show distinctly black spots. A difference in the length of the second anal spine is found between Japanese specimens of *P. vaiuli* and those from the Marianas Islands (Table 2).

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## 琉球列島から得られたオキスズメダイ *Pristotis jerdoni* とコハクスズメダイ *Pomacentrus vaiuli*

川嶋尚正・**Jack T. Moyer**

琉球列島の石垣島，沖縄本島より得られたスズメダイ科魚類の2種 *Pristotis jerdoni, Pomacentrus vaiuli* を記載した．

*Pristotis jerdoni* は日本からの初報告となるので，オキスズメダイの和名を提唱する．本種のペルシア湾，南シナ海，本邦近海の標本を比較すると，幾つかの比較長に僅かな地域差が見られた．一方コハクスズメダイ（新称）*Pomacentrus vaiuli* の中部太平洋からの報告のうちマーシャル諸島以北からの報告は，近年三宅島からなされたものだけであるが，本邦産のものについての詳しい記載はなされていなかった．本種は琉球列島ではかなり普通に見られたが，本報が初記録である．三宅島ではまれであった．しかし三宅島での越冬と産卵が確認されているので，本種の分布の北限は三宅島近海である．

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