

Redescription of a Flathead, *Thysanophrys otaitensis* (Scorpaeniformes: Platycephalidae)

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Abstract A platycephalid species, *Thysanophrys otaitensis* is redescribed on the basis of specimens collected from Papua New Guinea and Japan. The name is available satisfying current nomenclatural requirements, and corresponds to a species of *Thysanophrys* with papillae on lip margins. *T. otaitensis* is distinguished from *Platycephalus fuscus* in having fewer lateral line scales, gill rakers, and dorsal and anal fin rays. *T. otaitensis* is confirmed as a senior synonym of *P. malayanus*, *P. variolosus* and *T. papillolabium*. It differs from other species of the genus in having weakly developed sensory tubes from the suborbital bones and preopercle, as well as a small head with a wide interorbit and papillae on the lips, but absent from the eye.

In 1829, Cuvier briefly described *Cottus otaitensis*, based on a drawing by S. Parkinson. Fowler (1928) considered *C. otaitensis* as a junior synonym of *Platycephalus fuscus* Cuvier, 1829 and later (Fowler, 1949) remarked on the obscurity of the species. Although Knapp (1984) recognized *C. otaitensis* as a valid species, characterised by papillae on the lip margins, and placed it in the genus *Thysanophrys* Ogilby, 1898, he gave no reasons for so doing. Knapp (1986) subsequently regarded *Platycephalus malayanus* Bleeker, 1853, *P. variolosus* Günther, 1876 and *Thysanophrys papillolabium* Schultz, 1966 as junior synonyms of *T. otaitensis*, again without reasons, and described the species briefly. Although many authors referred to "*T. otaitensis*" since Knapp (1986), none have mentioned the status of Parkinson's figure, or whether or not the species having papillae actually corresponds to *T. otaitensis* (Myers, 1989; Paxton et al., 1989; Winterbottom et al., 1989; Randall et al., 1990; Shao and Chen, 1993).

On the other hand, Matsubara and Ochiai (1955) pointed out the usefulness of some taxonomic characters; viz. iris lappet, arrangement of body scales, number of exterior openings on the lateral line scales,

and interopercular flap. Although these characters have been recently used for the identification of platycephalids, most have not been considered in the previous discussions of "*T. otaitensis*."

In this study, specimens of "*T. otaitensis*," collected from Papua New Guinea and Japan, were reexamined, for the purposes of redescribing the species in detail, thus enabling comparison with other platycephalids, and appraisal of the correspondence between the species' name and lip papillae-bearing species. The species was also compared with and differentiated from congeneric species, in particular, the very similar *T. arenicola*.

Materials and Methods

Counts and measurements were made according to Hubbs and Lagler (1958). Vertebrae were counted from soft X-ray photographs. Measurements were made with a caliper to the nearest 0.1 mm. Names of head spines follow Knapp (1986). Institutional abbreviations follow Leviton et al. (1985).



Fig. 1. Photographs of lateral view (*upper*) and dorsal view (*lower*) of *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, NSMT-P 46965, 146 mm SL.

Thysanophrys otaitensis (Parkinson, 1829)
 (New Japanese name: Fusakuchi-gochi)
 (Figs. 1–5)

Cottus otaitensis Parkinson, in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829: 241 (Tahiti).

Platycephalus malayanus Bleeker, 1853: 498 (Sumatra); Bleeker, 1878: 27 (Sumatra and Amboina).

Platycephalus variolosus Günther, 1876: 167, pl. 109, fig. A (Samoa).

Thysanophrys malayanus: Fowler, 1928: 301 (East India); Gloerfelt-Tarp and Kailola, 1984: 125, fig. (southern Indonesia).

Suggrundus malayanus: Fowler, 1949: 109 (list).

Thysanophrys papillolabium Schultz, 1966: 55, fig. 145, pl. 130, fig. A (Marshall Is.); Wongratana, 1975: 2, pl. 1, fig. 6 (Andaman Sea); Shao and Chen, 1987: 86, fig. 21 (Taiwan).

Thysanophrys otaitensis (Cuvier, 1829): Knapp, 1984: 4 (western Indian Ocean); Winterbottom et al., 1989: 22, fig. 122 (central Indian Ocean); Randall et al., 1990: 87, fig. (Great Barrier Reef).

Thysanophrys otaitensis (Parkinson, 1829): Knapp, 1986: 485, fig. (Natal north to Seychelles); Paxton et al., 1989: 472 (Western Australia); Shao and Chen, 1993: 260, fig. 66-8 (Taiwan).

Thysanophrys otaitensis (Bleeker, 1853): Myers, 1989: 91, fig. 1c (Micronesia).

Materials examined. NSMT-P 46965, 2 females, 146–182 mm in standard length (SL), Okubo Bay, Miyake Island (ca. 34°05'N, 139°30'E), Izu Islands, Japan (sandy bottom overhung by rock cliff, depth about 10 m; specimens coll. by handnet, using SCUBA), 27 Aug. 1980; NSMT-P 46966, 2 specimens, 141–156 mm SL, Ani Island

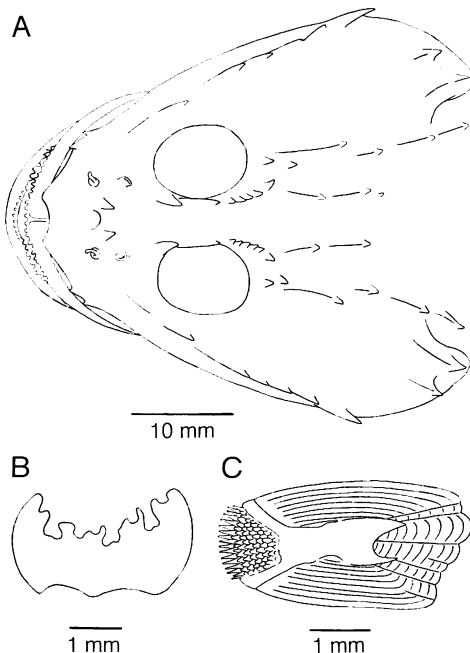


Fig. 2. *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, NSMT-P 46965, 146 mm SL. A) Dorsal view of head; B) iris lappet; C) scale from middle portion of lateral line on right side.

(ca. 27°05'S, 142°15'E), Chichijima Group, Ogasawara Islands, Japan, 22 July 1991; NSMT-P 46967, 1 specimen, 131 mm SL, Ani Island, Chichijima Group, Ogasawara Islands, Japan, 2 June 1992; WAM P.27824-080, 5 speci-

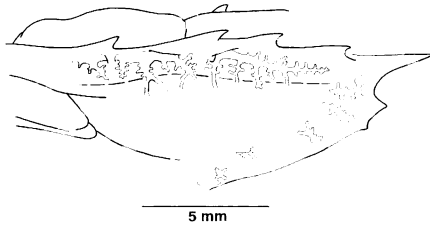


Fig. 3. Ventrolateral view of cheek region on left side of *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, WAM P.27824-080, 89 mm SL.

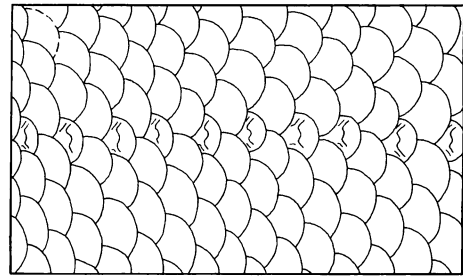


Fig. 4. Lateral view of scales on midbody on left side of *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, WAM P.27824-080, 89 mm SL.

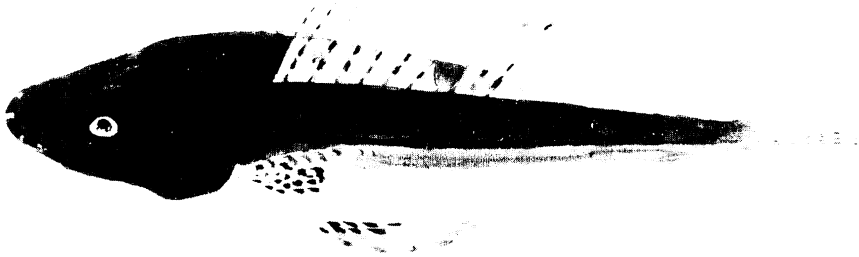


Fig. 5. Unfinished drawing of *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, made by S. Parkinson.

mens, 69–126 mm SL, Manus Island (01°58'S, 147°23'E), Papua New Guinea, 19–20 m, 4 Oct. 1982.

Description. Counts and measurements are shown in Table 1. Body depressed, mostly covered with ctenoid scales, some cycloid scales on undersurface. Head flattened, broad, length 3.0–3.3 in SL. Snout robust, longer than eye diameter, 3.3–3.5 in head length (HL). Upper iris lappet with short branches, lower bilobed (Fig. 2B). No papillae on eye. Interorbit concave, 7.9–12.2 in HL. Top and sides of head armed with spines (Fig. 3A). Nuchal with three (usually) spines (on supratemporal, posttemporal and supracleithrum), or (rarely) two (spine on supratemporal absent). Opercle with two moderate spines, lower with a distinct ridge lacking serrations. Preopercle with three spines, uppermost longest, not reaching posterior margin of opercle and not bearing supplementary spines; lowermost smallest. Parietal with a single spine in middle. Lateral surface of head with two ridges, upper (suborbital ridge) with (usually) four or five spines, rarely three (in a 69 mm SL specimen), lower surface (ventral

edge of suborbital bones) not serrated. Nasal with a strong spine. Preorbital spine absent. A sharp, stout preocular spine in front of eye. Supraorbital ridge roughly serrated owing to four to ten spines on posterior half. A single, strong postocular spine present, occasionally with a sharp spine posteriorly. Pterotic ridge ending with a sharp spine. One or two spines, or a row ridge, sometimes present between parietal and posteriormost supraorbital spine. Supraoccipital without spines or ridges. Interopercular flap absent. Interopercle very large, strongly extended ventrally. Maxilla not reaching middle of eye, length 2.3–2.6 in HL. Villiform teeth in broad bands on jaws and palatine, in two separate patches on vomer. Tooth band on upper jaw without a notch. Lips margins with well-developed papillae. Sensory tubes from suborbital bones and preopercle weakly developed, extending to, but not completely covering, cheek region (Fig. 3). Pored scales in lateral line with two exterior openings posteriorly (Figs. 2C and 4). Body scales small, number of oblique scale rows slanting backward and downward above lateral line about equal to number of lateral line scales;

number of oblique scale rows slanting forward and downward above lateral line greater than number of lateral line scales (Fig. 4). First dorsal fin originating slightly beyond posterior margin of opercle. First and second dorsal fins narrowly separated. Pectoral fin rounded posteriorly, length 1.8–2.2 in HL. Pelvic fin long, reaching beyond origin of anal fin, length 1.1–1.3 in HL. Caudal fin slightly rounded posteriorly, length 1.4–1.5 in HL.

Color in ethanol.—In dark specimens, upper surface of head and body dark brown with some light brown spots; lower surface pale. Dorsal fins and pectoral fin with small dark spots. Pelvic fin with large dark spots. Caudal fins with some irregular vertical bands comprising small dark spots. Anal fin pale, lower half with dark lines along rays. In pale specimens, upper surface of head and body right brown with some white spots, lower surface pale. Dorsal fins and pectoral fin with small, right brown spots. Pelvic fin with large, right brown spots. Caudal fin with some irregular vertical bands com-

prising small right brown spots. Anal fin pale.

Distribution. Known from the Western Pacific, ranging from Japan to the Tuamotu Is., including Taiwan, Caroline Is., Marshall Is., Sumatra, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Samoa and Tahiti; and the Indian Ocean, from Natal to northern Indonesia, including the Seychelle Is., Chagos Archipelago and the Andaman Sea.

Remarks. Cuvier's (1829) description of the present species was based on the Parkinson's drawing, which was labelled *Cottus otaitensis* by the latter. The status and whereabouts of the holotype are unknown (Paxton et al., 1989). According to ICZN (1985) Chap. IV and Art. 73 (a) (iv), the name is available. Parkinson's drawing, which showed the suborbital ridge bearing spines, a wide interorbit, small eye, dark body, pectoral and pelvic fins with spots, and the caudal fin with some irregular vertical bands comprised of dark small spots (Fig. 5), could

Table 1. Counts and proportional measurements of *Thysanophrys otaitensis* and *Platycephalus malayanus* and *P. variolosus* holotypes

	<i>T. otaitensis</i> (n = 10)	<i>P. malayanus</i> (holotype)	<i>P. variolosus</i> (holotype)
Standard length (mm)	69–182	77	132
Counts			
Dorsal fin rays	I-VII-VIII-11	I-VIII-11	I-VIII-11
Anal fin rays	12	12	12
Pectoral fin rays	20–22	22	21
Pelvic fin rays	I, 5	I, 5	I, 5
Vertebrae	27	27	27
Gill rakers	1+5=6	1+5=6	1+5=6
Lateral line scales	51–53	52	53
Proportions as % SL			
Head length	30.1–33.3	32.2	30.5
Length of D ¹ * base	16.6–21.5	20.2	21.1
Length of D ² * base	27.1–30.4	29.3	29.3
Length of A* base	30.7–34.4	33.1	33.1
Length of first dorsal spine	2.3–4.2	3.5	2.0
Length of second dorsal spine	12.1–17.2	—	12.7
Length of first anal ray	7.3–8.5	—	8.7
Pectoral fin length	13.6–17.1	—	17.2
Pelvic fin length	25.9–29.2	—	30.6
Caudal fin length	19.9–23.5	—	22.5
Proportions as % HL			
Snout length	28.3–29.8	28.3	29.1
Eye diameter	21.0–26.0	25.9	22.1
Interorbital width	8.2–12.7	8.4	10.7
Upper jaw length	39.1–42.9	39.4	40.3
Lower jaw length	57.8–61.3	57.4	59.2

* D¹, first dorsal fin; D², second dorsal fin; A, anal fin.

have been based on a specimen of either *T. arenicola* Schultz, 1966 or "*T. otaitensis*." The exact specific identity is unclear from the drawing, because papillae were not drawn, suggesting that either they were not noticed, being small and unobtrusive, or they were absent. However, the conclusion drawn here is that the specimen used for the drawing was "*T. otaitensis*," owing to that species having been reported from the Tuamotu Islands (Randall et al., 1990), east of Tahiti, the type locality of *Cottus otaitensis*, whereas *T. arenicola*, although known from the Fiji Islands, has not been found further into the South Pacific (L. W. Knapp, pers. comm.). Although some authors here considered Cuvier or Bleeker as the author of *T. otaitensis* (Knapp, 1984; Myers, 1989; Winterbottom et al., 1989; Randall et al., 1990), the author of the species was Parkinson, according to ICZN (1985) Art. 50 (a), as pointed out by Knapp (1986), Paxton et al. (1989) and Shao and Chen (1993).

Fowler (1928) considered *T. otaitensis* to be a junior synonym of *Platycephalus fuscus*. However, *T. otaitensis* differs from the latter in having at least 51–53 lateral line scales (vs. 72–78 in the latter), 1+5–6 gill rakers (vs. 2–3+7–10), 11–12 dorsal fin rays (vs. 13) and 12 anal fin rays (vs. 13) (data from Knapp, 1986, 1991 and present study). On the basis, Fowler's (1928) synonymy is rejected.

Knapp (1986) regarded *Platycephalus malayanus*, *P. variolosus* and *Thysanophrys papillolabium* as junior synonyms of *T. otaitensis*, decisions followed here owing to the holotypes of *Platycephalus malayanus* and *P. variolosus* having papillae on the lips and there being no clear differences between the holotypes, Parkinson's drawing, and Knapp's (1986) description and figures. Schultz's (1966) original description of *T. papillolabium* also agrees well with the above. Moreover, there were no clear differences between the counts and proportional measurements of the holotypes of *Platycephalus malayanus* and *P. variolosus* and specimens of *T. otaitensis* examined in this study (Table 1).

Comparisons. The genus *Thysanophrys* is distinguished from all other platycephalids by the following: iris lappet with branches, number of scale rows slanting downward and backward above lateral line about equal to number of lateral line scales, suborbital ridge with more than three spines and gill rakers on the first gill arch usually less than seven (Knapp, 1984, 1986). *T. otaitensis* satisfies this definition, and

six other species are currently assigned to the genus (Knapp, 1984, 1986): *T. carbuncula* (Valenciennes, 1833), *T. cirronasa* (Richardson, 1848) (=type species), *T. celebica* (Bleeker, 1854), *T. armata* (Fowler, 1938), *T. arenicola* Schultz, 1966 and *T. chiltonae* Schultz, 1966. *T. otaitensis* can be distinguished from the other species by the papillae on the lips (absent in the others). It also differs from *T. armata*, *T. carbuncula*, *T. celebica* and *T. cirronasa* in lacking papillae on the eye (usually present in the latter [L. W. Knapp, pers. comm.; pers. obs.]), and from *T. chiltonae* in having a wide interorbit (8.2–12.7% HL vs. 4.5–6.2%). *T. otaitensis* is very similar to *T. arenicola* in having the same body and fin color patterns, as pointed out by Knapp (1986), no papillae on the eye, and a wide interorbit and large interopercle. Thus, separation of the two is very difficult without examination of the lip papillae. Both species also have weakly developed sensory tubes extending to, but not completely covering, the cheek region (vs. well developed, completely covering, in other species of *Thysanophrys*, except *T. carbuncula* [pers. obs.]). The tubes have not been examined in the platycephalids. Although overlaps in ranges of head length and interorbital width occur between *T. otaitensis* and *T. arenicola* (head length 30.1–33.3% SL vs. 32.1–35.3%, and interorbital width 8.2–12.7% HL and 7.9–15.1%, respectively), *T. otaitensis* has a smaller head and narrower interorbit at comparable sizes in specimens more than ca. 12 cm SL (Figs. 6 and 7). These proportional measurements were valuable for the identification of larger specimens of these species. The number of second dorsal fin rays was also helpful for the distinction between *T. otaitensis* and *T. arenicola* (range 11–12, usually 11 vs. range 11–12, usually 12), although some intraspecific variation occurred (Knapp, 1986; pers. obs.).

Comparative Materials

Thysanophrys arenicola: HUMZ 135114-135122, 9 specimens, 57–182 mm SL, Philippines, June 1978; WAM P.28538-013, 2 specimens, 102–131 mm SL, Coral Sea (16°31'S, 147°50'E), 15–18 m, 19 Nov. 1985; WAM P.28541-026, 1 specimen, 113 mm SL, Coral Sea (16°31'S, 147°50'E), 12–14 m, 20 Nov. 1985; WAM P.29642-017, 2 specimens, 57–150 mm SL, Coral Sea (17°25'S, 150°48'E), 9–10 m, 15 Nov. 1987; WAM P.30366-002, 2 specimens, 91–100 mm SL, Madang, Papua New Guinea (05°10'S, 145°50'E), 15–17 m, 1 Nov. 1991; WAM P.30622-005,

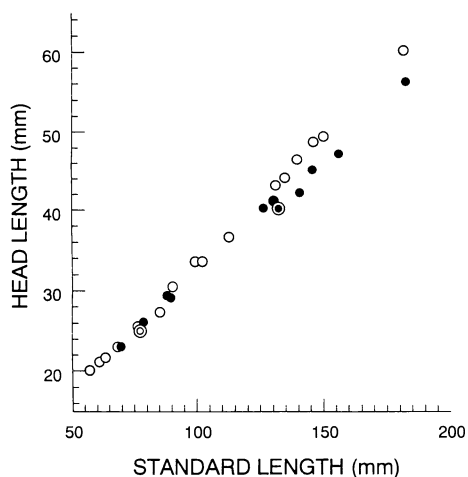


Fig. 6. Relationship between head length and standard length in *Thysanophrys otaitensis* (●), *T. arenicola* (○) and holotypes of *Platycephalus malayanus* (⊙) and *P. variolosus* (⊗).

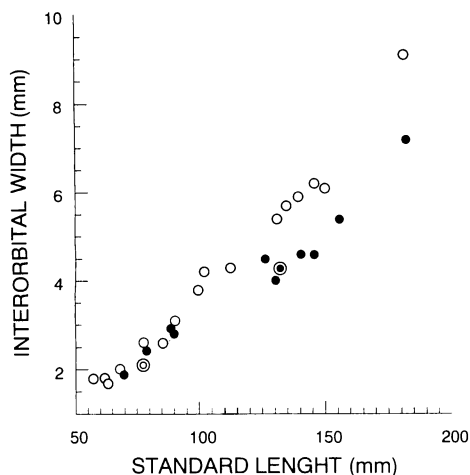


Fig. 7. Relationship between interorbital width and standard length in *Thysanophrys otaitensis*, *T. arenicola* and holotypes of *Platycephalus malayanus* and *P. variolosus*. Symbols as in Figure 6.

1 specimen, 78 mm SL, Madang, Papua New Guinea (05°09'00''S, 145°50'00''E), 11–16 m, 24 Jan. 1993.

T. armata: HUMZ 135112, 1 specimen, 121 mm SL, Weligama, Ceylon, 14 Feb. 1970.

T. carbuncula: MNHN 6875 (holotype), 128 mm SL, Bombay, India, date unknown.

T. celebica: HUMZ 135111, 1 specimen, 94 mm SL, Thailand, 8 May 1966.

T. chiltonae: RUSI 15342, 1 specimen, 72 mm SL, Leadsman Shoal, Natal, South Africa, 21 Apr. 1980; NSMT-P 46968, 2 specimens, 132–153 mm SL, Miyake Island, Izu

Islands, Tokyo, Japan, 5 May 1979; FSKU (unregistered), 158 mm SL, Kuroshima Island, Yaeyama Group, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, 18 Nov. 1978.

T. cirronasa: AMS I.25450-001, 1 specimen, 219 mm SL, South Pacific (32°36'S, 152°19'E), 18 Apr. 1976; CSIRO CA3693, 1 specimen, 182 mm SL, Great Australian Bight, Western Australia (32°30'S, 126°43'E), 36 m, 1 Dec. 1981.

T. otaitensis: BMNH 1876.6.5.1 (holotype of *Platycephalus variolosus* Günther, 1876), 132 mm SL, Samoa, 5 June 1876; RMNH 5968 (holotype of *Platycephalus malayanus* Bleeker, 1853), 77 mm SL, Sumatra, date unknown.

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コチ科魚類フサクチゴチ (新称) *Thysanophrys otaitensis* の再記載

今村 央・井田 齊・Jack T. Moyer

これまでコチ科魚類の分類に有効とされている形質の記載が乏しかったコチ科魚類のフサクチゴチ (新称) *Thysanophrys otaitensis* をパプア・ニューギニアおよび日本から得られた標本に基づき詳細に再記載した。本種は S. Parkinson が *Cottus otaitensis* と名付けた水彩画をもとに記載された種であるが、本学名は国際動物命名規約の関係条項を満たしているため適格名である。Parkinson の水彩画には本種の特徴である口部の乳頭状皮弁は描かれていないが、模式産地であるタヒチでは口部にこれらを持たない類似種のスナゴチ *T. arenicola* は分布していないことから、Parkinson が水彩画に用いた種は、タヒチ周辺海域にも広く分布し、現在 *T. otaitensis* として知られる口部に乳頭状皮弁を持つ本種と考えられる。本種と、他種の完模式標本および文献との比較により、本種のシノニム関係が明らかにされた。本種はスナゴチと口部の乳頭状皮弁以外に、体長約 12 cm 以上の個体では、頭が小さいこと、両眼間隔が狭いことから識別される。本種はインド・太平洋の熱帯域に広く分布するが、日本からの報告はこれが初めてである。

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