

SHORT COMMUNICATION

New records of three coral reef fishes from the Kenting National Park, Taiwan

Hsuan-Ching Ho^{1,2*} and Chin-Te Lin¹

¹National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium, Pingtung, Taiwan.

²Institute of Marine Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Pingtung, Taiwan.

* Corresponding author. E-mail: hohc@nmmab.gov.tw

The fish fauna of Taiwan comprises roughly 3120 species (Shao, 2016), represents a high diversity compared to the near areas. For example, Ebert et al. (2012) listed 181 species of sharks, rays and chimera that rank Taiwan as one of the five countries with the highest chondrichthyan diversity in the world. Ho et al. (2015) listed 207 species of eels in Taiwan that placed Taiwan the country with the highest eel diversity around the world.

In their comprehensive book, Chen et al. (2010) recorded 1154 species, mostly coral reef fishes, in the Kenting National Park. Since then, new species or new records were continuously added (Ho and Shao, 2010; Ho et al., 2012; Ho and Causse, 2012; Ho et al, 2013; Chen et al., 2013; Ho, 2014, Ho and Lin, 2014).

In present study, three coral reef fishes previously recorded from Lanyu Island (Orchid Island) or Dongsha Atoll (Pratas Islands), were spotted and photographed from the waters of Kenting National Park.

SCUBA diving was operated by our team in Kenting National Park with detailed recordings of environmental and ecological information. Individual of *Decodon pacific* was collected by hook and line by a recreational vessel.

Family Pomacentridae

***Chrysiptera chrysocephala* Manica, Pilcher & Oakley, 2002**

金頭刻齒雀鯛

Figures 1A-B

Two underwater photographs were taken at He-jie, western coast of Kenting National Park, one at depth 5-6 meters on 7 December 2012 (Fig. 1A) and one at depth 7-8 meters on 17 May 2015 (Fig. 1B).

Body compressed; body depth about 3 times in total length; head relatively small, head length about 5 times in total length; mouth terminal; eye smaller than snout length; single dorsal fin with long

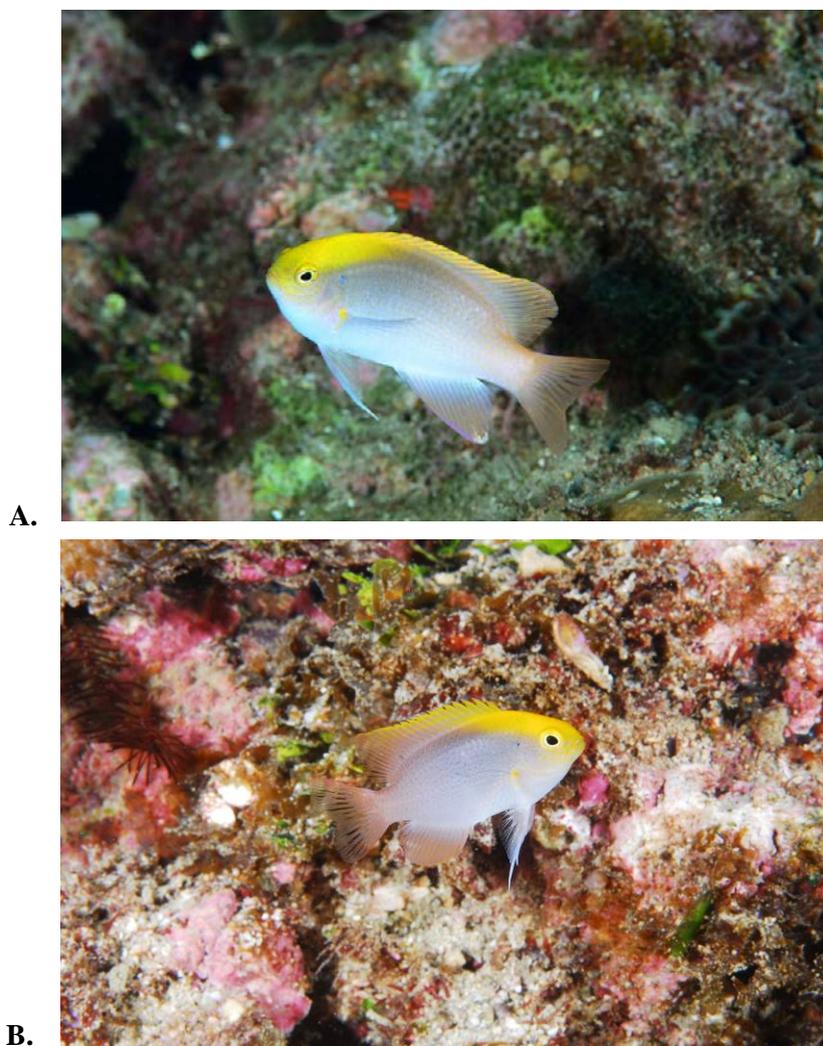


Fig. 1. Underwater photograph of *Chrysiptera chrysocephala* Manica, Pilcher & Oakley, 2002 from Kenting. A. 5-6 m, 7 Dec. 2012. B. 7-8 m, 17 May 2015.

base, its origin above gill covering; anal fin with short base, its origin at middle portion of body; length of caudal peduncle about 2 times in head length, its length about equal to its depth.

Dorsal surface of head, nape and anterior part of dorsal fin bright yellow; other

part of body light bluish; a bright blue dot at upper corner of gill covering; a bright yellow spot at upper base of pectoral fin; pectoral and pelvic fin bluish; anal fin bright bluish with yellowish and light purplish margin; caudal fin light yellowish.

The individuals were found nearby

the caves below the reef rocks with sandy bottom. This species has been collected from Dongsha Atoll, Pratas Islands and is likely common in the near areas. Our photographs represent the first record of this species from Taiwan. Hence, its distribution range is now extended to southern Taiwan, northern South China Sea.

Family Microdesmidae

Gunnellichthys curiosus Dawson, 1968

眼帶鰻鰕虎

Figure 2

An underwater photograph was taken at He-jie, western coast of Kenting National Park at depth 28 meters on 24 April 2015.

Body elongate, eel-like; head length

about 1.5 times of body depth; mouth slightly superior; lower jaw overhanging the upper jaw; eye relatively small, its diameter less than snout length; origin of dorsal fin slightly behind the base of pectoral fin; origin of anal fin at middle portion of body; both dorsal and anal fins extend to near base of caudal fin; caudal peduncle short.

Body bluish dorsally and ventrally, gradually yellowish blue posteriorly; a broad orange yellow stripe through the body axis, blackish yellow on head; anterior portion of upper jaw blackish; dorsal fin blackish yellow; a small spot at upper base of pectoral fin; a large black patch circled by bright blue at base of caudal fin, the rest part of caudal fin yellow; anal fin bluish.

The individual was found over sand and rubble bottom.



Fig. 2. Underwater photograph of *Gunnellichthys curiosus* Dawson, 1968 from Kenting.

This species is widespread in the Indo-west Pacific Ocean. A single specimen was collected from Lanyu (Orchid Island) in 1993. Our underwater photograph represents the first record of *G. curiosus* from Taiwan.

Ho et al. (2013) recorded another congener *G. viridescens* from Kenting National Park. *Gunnellichthys curiosus* differs from *G. viridescens* in having an orange yellow stripe on body axis (vs. stripe yellowish, sometimes less distinct), black spots on upper base of pectoral fin (vs. absent) and black patch on caudal-fin base (vs. absent).

Family Labridae

Decodon pacificus (Kamohara, 1952)

太平洋裸齒隆頭魚
Figure 3

A ca. 16 cm specimen was collected by the angler off Mao-bi-tao, Kenting at depth around 130-140 meters on 7 August, 2016. The specimen was photographed and then sold to the local fisherman, thus not retained. However, the photograph was good enough for precise identification.

Body moderately elongate with dorsal and ventral profile slightly convex. The body depth is about 3.3 times in SL. Head slightly triangular, its length about 3.3 times in SL; snout slightly pointed, with upper lip slightly overhanging the lower lip. Eye large, at margin of upper profile of head, its diameter slightly smaller than snout length, directed laterally rather than dorsally. Mouth small, maxilla extends to a level of anterior half of eye. Caudal peduncle broad, with concave on dorsal and ventral profile.



Fig. 3. *Decodon pacificus* (Kamohara, 1952), ca. 16 cm total length, from Kenting, photo by Michael Lin.

Dorsal fin with long base, originated right above pectoral-fin base; anal-fin base long, originated at about middle of trunk; caudal fin broad, truncated.

Body generally pinkish, paler on abdomen; dorsal portion of body with 5 irregular partly connected yellow saddles. Two bright yellow oblique bands on head, one at snout and one below eye. Eye purplish red, iris black circled by narrow yellow rim. Dorsal fin mostly purplish red, yellowish posteriorly; pectoral fin pinkish; pelvic fin whitish; anal fin light pinkish anteriorly and yellowish posteriorly; caudal fin with a pinkish red base and yellowish elsewhere.

Decodon pacificus is not common, only few records in Japan, Taiwan and Australia. Although it has been recorded from northeastern Taiwan and southwestern Taiwan, the specimen represents the first record of the Kenting National Park, southern Taiwan. It is assumed that the living species associated with the deep-sea coral region where several other species of *Parapercis* and *Synodus* were collected together occasionally (Ho, 2014; Ho, pers. data).

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