

Amblypomacentrus vietnamicus sp. n., a new damselfish from the South China Sea (Teleostei: Perciformes: Pomacentridae)

A.M. Prokofiev

Prokofiev, A.M. 2004. *Amblypomacentrus vietnamicus* sp. n., a new damselfish from the South China Sea (Teleostei: Perciformes: Pomacentridae). *Zoosystematica Rossica*, **13**(1): 121-123.

A new species of *Amblypomacentrus* is described from the South China Sea off Vietnam. It differs from congeners in scale and gill-raker counts, slightly protruding snout, and coloration. This is the first record of this genus from the mainland Asia.

A.M. Prokofiev, A.N. Severtsov's Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninskiy prospekt 33, Moscow 119071, and Paleontological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Profsoyuznaya ul. 123, Moscow 117997, Russia. E-mail: prokart@rambler.ru

Amblypomacentrus Bleeker, 1877 is a genus of diminutive Indo-West-Pacific damselfishes characterized by the following combination of features: body deep; snout, preorbital and suborbital scaleless; notch between preorbital and suborbital absent; margins of preopercle and suborbital weakly serrate; teeth uniserial, somewhat incisiform; dorsal spines XIII; no projecting spiniform rays at caudal base (Allen, 1975; Allen & Adrim, 2000). Under fishes collected from Vietnam by the Soviet-Vietnamese joint biological expedition in 1985, I discovered two specimens agreeing in principal characters with this genus, but clearly distinguishing from two other known congeners, *A. breviceps* (Schlegel & Müller, 1839) and *A. clarus* Allen & Adrim, 2000, in several important characters mentioned below. This material is described herein as a new species. Formerly, this genus has not been recorded from the mainland coast of Asia. Specimens are housed in the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg (ZIN).

Standard ichthyological counts and measurements were made following Hubbs & Lagler (1958), with additions by Allen (1975). Counts and measurements of the holotype are given first, followed by these of the paratype in parentheses. A map of exact places of catching, and some ecological and behavioural comments for coexisting reef fishes were given by Dgebuadze (2001).

***Amblypomacentrus vietnamicus* sp. n.**
(Figs 1, 2)

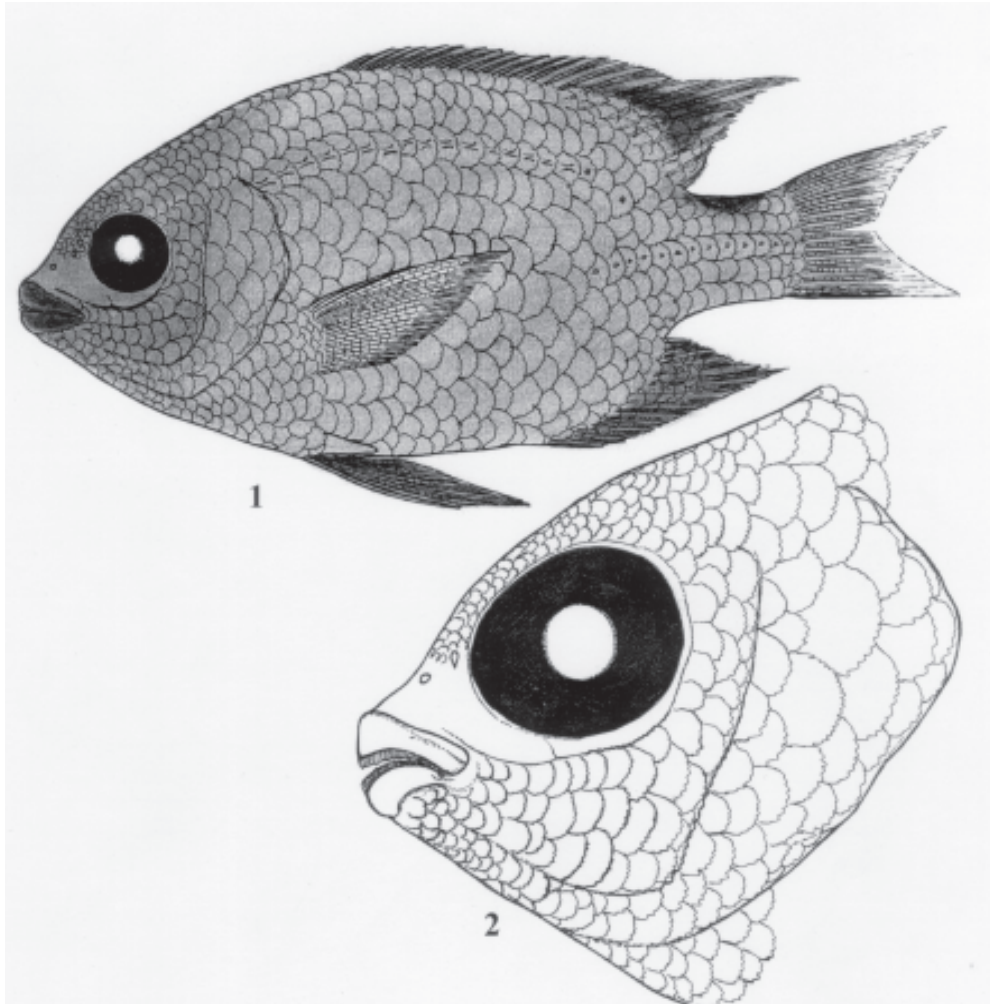
Holotype. ZIN, no. 53059, SL 24 mm, **Vietnam**, eastward of N'achang City, South China Sea, Che Island, station 8, sample 4, 30.XI.1985.

Paratype. ZIN, no. 53060, SL 25 mm, **Vietnam**, eastward of N'achang City, South China Sea, Che Island, station 7, sample 5, 29.XI.1985.

Diagnosis. A species of *Amblypomacentrus* with 16 tubed scales in upper lateral line, 3 scales between upper lateral line and mid-dorsal, 8-10 developed rakers on lower arm of 1st gill arch, slightly protruding snout, and characteristic coloration (see description below).

Description. D XIII, 11 (XIII, 12). A II, 12 (II, 12). P ii, 16 (ii, 16). V I, 5 (I, 5). C I+8+7+I (I+8+7+I). Transverse scale rows between cleithrum and caudal-fin base 28 (28). Scales in upper lateral line 17+1 (21), of which 16 (16) are tubed. Scales in lower lateral line 13 (12). Three scales between upper lateral line and mid-dorsal; 2½ scales between upper lateral line and 1st dorsal-fin spine. Cheek scales in three rows. Circumpeduncular scales 10 (10) in number. Selected measurements: in % of SL: head length (HL), 33.3 (32.0); greatest depth of body, 45.8 (44.0); least depth of the caudal peduncle, 13.5 (12.0); caudal peduncle length, 18.8 (16.0); predorsal length, 41.7 (42.0); pre-anal length, 66.7 (70.0); pre-pelvic length, 37.5 (40.0); dorsal-fin base length, 39.6 (40.0); anal-fin base length, 20.8 (21.0); pectoral-fin length, 29.2 (28.0); pelvic-fin length, 29.2 (28.0); in % of HL: snout length, 25.0 (25.0); eye diameter, 37.5 (37.5); interorbital width, 31.3 (31.3).

Body deep, 2.2 (2.3) times in SL. Dorsal profile of head markedly rises from tip of snout to occiput. Snout slightly protruding. Lips well-developed, but not hypertrophied. Teeth uniserial, somewhat incisiform. Preorbital and suborbital naked; suborbital crenulate. Notch between preorbital and suborbital absent. Margin of preopercle



Figs 1, 2. *Amblypomacentrus vietnamicus* sp. n., holotype. 1, habitus; 2, head.

cle weakly serrate; other opercular bones smooth. Dorsal part of head scaly to about level of mid-distance between anterior and posterior nostrils; snout mostly naked (Fig. 2). 8-10 developed rakers and few rudiments on lower arm of 1st gill arch. Dorsal and anal fins with scaly sheaths. Distal tips of soft dorsal and anal fins weakly filamentous. Pelvic fins inserted under pectoral-fin base and extended to anal-fin origin. Pelvic auxiliary scale very long. Caudal fin with emargination, but distal lobes damaged in both specimens. Upper and lower edge of caudal-fin base without projecting spiniform rays. Two lateral lines on body. Upper lateral line runs from supracleithrum to about mid-length of soft dorsal-fin base, nearly on a half-way between mid-body axis and dorsal contour. Lower lateral line originates

at the level of uppermost tubed scale, extends to caudal-fin base. All scales ctenoid.

Colour in life unknown. Preserved specimens are brownish, with lips, iris, pelvic and anal fins blackish; pectoral fins pale. Irregular dark spot on soft dorsal fin. Upper margin of caudal peduncle with small blackish spot. No light spots on fins and body.

Comparison. The new species differs from its congeners in the characteristic coloration, absence of distinct black bands and/or light (pearly white in life) spots on body and fins, but presence of a blackish mark on the soft dorsal fin and a black spot on the upper margin of caudal peduncle. In contrast to *A. breviceps* and *A. clarus*, the new species has slightly protruding snout and better-developed lips. In addition, *A. viet-*

namicus differs from its congeners in having more scales between upper lateral line and mid-dorsal (3 vs. $1\frac{1}{2}$), slightly less of tubed scales in upper lateral line (16 vs. 17), and much smaller gill-raker count.

Remark. Apparently rare fishes, occasionally associated with sea anemones.

References

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Received 2 April 2004