

## **POMADASYS ANDAMANENSIS, A NEW SPECIES OF HAEMULID FISH FROM THAILAND**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A new species of *Pomadasys* is described from a single specimen collected at Phuket Island, Thailand. *Pomadasys andamanensis* n.sp. is distinguished by having four distinct undivided horizontal dark brown to black bands on the body. The species is closely related to *Pomadasys furcatus* (Schneider, 1801).

### **INTRODUCTION**

A review by McKay (1984) of the genus *Pomadasys* from the Western Indian Ocean was published by FAO for fishery purposes. It provided a key to species. A specimen of *Pomadasys* taken by speargun at Phuket, Thailand, was found to key to *P. furcatus* by the second author. However, the colour pattern of the fish was not in accordance so the specimen and a colour photograph were sent to the first author who is currently preparing a Species Catalogue of the family Haemulidae for publication by FAO. It was concluded that a new species was discovered. The new species can easily be distinguished from *Pomadasys furcatus* which is fairly common in the area of capture.

#### ***Pomadasys andamanensis*, new species (Fig. 1, Table 1)**

*Pomadasys* sp. 1- Satapoomin, 1993:  
Plate 8, Fig. 30.

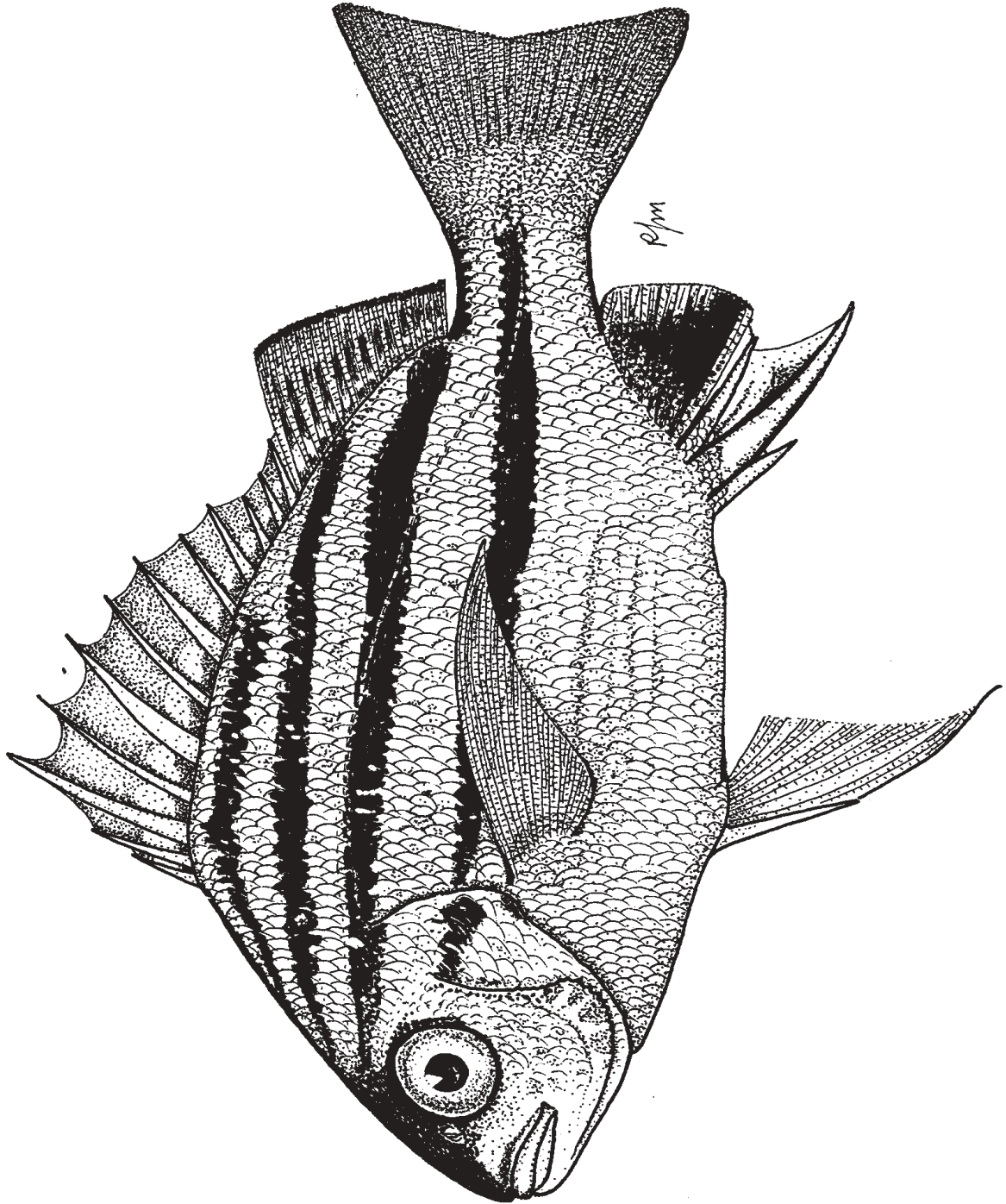
Holotype: PMBC 10068, standard length (SL) 154 mm, total length 185 mm, collected in Kata Bay, Phuket, Thailand by speargun at 5 m depth by U. Satapoomin on March 4, 1992.

Diagnosis: A small species of *Pomadasys* with a row of small interradiated scales on the dorsal and anal fins; four distinct dark brown horizontal bands on the body, and the anterior half of the rayed anal fin dark brown.

Description: Measurements within parentheses are in millimeters. Body oblong, compressed, its

depth (65.6) 43% of standard length (154); dorsal profile straight; least depth of caudal peduncle (18.0) 11.7% of SL. Head (50) 33% of standard length; snout rounded, length (11.3) 22.6%; fleshy interorbital space (16.7) 33%; width of preorbital between edge of orbit and the lower margin at corner of mouth (9.7) 19.4%; eye (15.7) large 31% of head length; mouth small, terminal, without fleshy lips, the posterior edge of upper jaw reaching to the anterior margin of eye; upper and lower jaws with a band of small conical teeth in 6 or 7 rows anteriorly, the outer row enlarged; palate without teeth; a deep pore above maxilla under preopercle; gillrakers short (about 2 mm long, shorter than arch at angle), total gillrakers on outer arch 18 (5+13); four pores on chin, the posterior two slit-like, within a deep conspicuous pit; pre-operculum serrate, coarsely so at angle. Dorsal fin with 12 spines and 14 (last ray divided) soft rays, third and fourth dorsal spines (29) longest, last dorsal spine (13.4); anal fin with 3 spines and 7 soft rays; the second anal spine (32) longer and stronger than the third (13); soft portions of dorsal and anal fins with two or three proximal and one to two distal rows of interradiated scales; basal sheath of scales present. Pored lateral line scales 53; 7 rows of scales in an oblique line between origin of dorsal fin and lateral line; circumpeduncular scales 9 above, 2 pored, 11 below, total 21 or 22. Colour: body pale silvery grey with bluish reflections, becoming pale blue-grey in alcohol, white below with dusting of fine brown dots on lower sides; a dark brown band commencing behind upper half of eye continues across angle of

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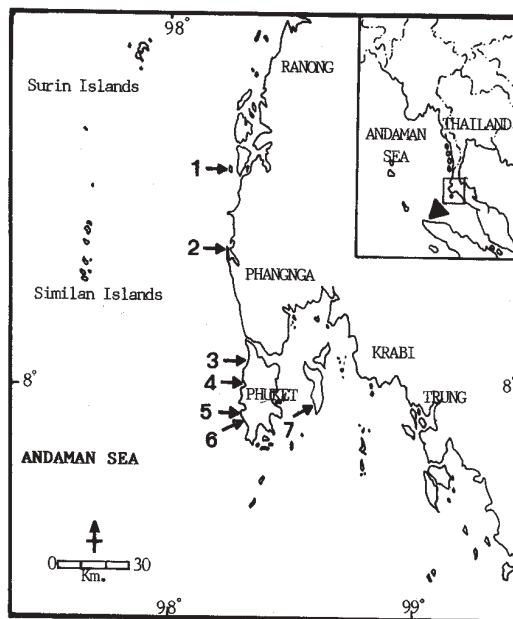
*Pomadasys andamanensis* new species, from Thailand

operculum where it expands slightly to form a vague opercular spot and thence above pectoral fin base to hypural flexure and a little beyond on base of caudal fin; a similar band above from above eye to last three rays of the soft dorsal fin and continuing along upper surface of caudal peduncle to base of upper caudal rays; another band from the nape terminates at the base of the third to fifth soft dorsal rays and continues as a faint band along the base of this fin to almost join the band below; the uppermost band commences at the upper nape and ascends to one or two scale widths below spinous dorsal fin where it continues along the base to the base of the ninth spine; all bands are interrupted along the anterior dorsal profile and do not join the bands on the opposite side; snout dark brown anteriorly; a dark edge around margin of orbit ventrally; upper inner base of pectoral fin brown; spinous dorsal fin with interspinous membranes dusky-brown basally a white blotch above and the remainder of the membrane dusky; soft dorsal fin with interradiated membrane pale basally; anal fin with a dusky streak behind second anal spine, anterior half of anal fin dark brown with base of posterior half dusky, the pigment continuing onto the scaly sheath as a dusky-brown area; pelvic fins pale to white with fine dusty brown dots on anterior half; caudal fin dusky. Swimbladder simple without anteriolateral horn-like extensions.

**Table 1.** Proportional measurements in percent of standard length for the holotype of *Pomadasys andamanensis*

Total length	185 mm
Standard length	154 mm
Head length	32.5
Orbit diameter	10.2
Snout length	7.3
Fleshy interorbital	10.8
Width of preorbital	6.4
Greatest body depth	42.6
Depth of caudal peduncle	11.7
Length of caudal peduncle	14.9
Pectoral length	32.5
First anal spine	9.4
Second anal spine	20.3
Third anal spine	18.7
Fourth dorsal spine	17.5
Longest dorsal ray	19.8

**Distribution:** Known only from the Andaman Sea in the vicinity of Phuket Island (Naiyang beach, April 1993; north and south Bangtao Bay, April 1991, April 1993; Kata Bay, March 1992, January 1993; Kata Noi Bay, March 1992, sightings) and Phangnga Province (Ko Ka and Tublamu, December 1991, Ko Yao Yai, September 1994, sightings), Thailand (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Distributional records of *Pomadasys andamanensis* in Thailand; 1. Ko Ka, 2. Tublamu, 3. Naiyang, 4. Bangtao, 5. Kata, 6. Katanoi, 7. Ko Yao Yai.

**Remarks:** Very similar to *Pomadasys furcatus* (Schneider, 1801), but with four clearly undivided dark brown longitudinal bands instead of six to seven longitudinal brown bands that are frequently bifurcate anteriorly and after division longitudinally may number ten thinner bands.

This new species has the dark bands well defined, without trace of anterior division. The interradial membrane of the soft dorsal fin has one or two rows of scales as does *P. furcatus*. Recent illustrations of *P. furcatus* are given by Gloerfelt-Tarp and Kailola

(1984:198), McKay (1984), Smith and McKay, (1976: 179.11). Named with reference to the Andaman Sea, the only known locality from which this species has been collected and recorded.

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