ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SCIAENID FISH *ATROBUCCA NIBE* (JORDON & THOMPSON) OFF VISAKHAPATNAM

ABSTRACT

Atrobucca nibe (Jordon & Thompson) is recorded for the first time from Indian waters. Specimens varying in total length from 184 to 237 mm and collected from exploratory trawl catches in April 1961 from the depth range 25-30 metres off Visakhapatnam (Lat. 18°10'N Long 83°53'E) are redescribed.

A systematic study of the sciaenid fishes of Visakhapatnam coast has revealed the occurrence of *Atrobucca nibe* (Jordon & Thompson) in this area.

Material : A total of nine specimens were obtained from the catches of the trawler M. T. Ashok in April 1961 from the depth 25-30 m off Visakhapatnam (Lat. 18° 10'N Long. 83° 53'E). The specimens measure 184 to 237 mm in total length. The full description of the specimens is given below.

Atrobucca nibe (Jordon & Thompson)

Sciaena nibe Jordon & Thompson, 1911, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 39 : 241-261.

Atrobucca nibe Chu, Lo & Wu, 1963, *Monogr. Fish. China* pp. 64-65 (Refer for synonyms).

Description : B VIII ; D X + I + 25-27 ; A II + 7 ; P 17 ; V I 5 ; C 17 ; Ll 48-55 ; L tr. 6 + 10.

Body elongate and compressed ; head 2.53-2.84 and depth of body 3.46-3.73 in standard length ; snout 4.00-4.57 and eye 3.93-5.26 in head ; jaws equal, maxillary extending to almost below middle of eye ; rostral fold entire, not divided into lobes ; rostral pores 3, arranged semicircularly ; marginal pores of rostral fold 5, the median rounded, the lateral ones slit-like ; mental pores 6, small, two median pores placed in front of inner lateral pores, the distances between the pores being equidistant forming a square ; outer lateral pores present ; mental barbel absent. Vomer and palate edentulous ; teeth on lower jaw biserial, inner series being strong, large, especially the anterior pairs which are strong and canine like; outer series of teeth villiform and closely set ; teeth on upper jaw biserial, outer series, especially

the anterior pairs enlarged being strong and canine like, but inner series is villiform. Opercle with two flat spines. Preopercle finely serrated along both limbs with weak spines at each angle. First D1 spine short, third and fourth spines longest and almost equal, and the rest in decreasing height. First anal spine small ; second anal spine long, about five in head ; origin of anal opposite 13th dorsal ray ; P1 falciform; caudal wedge shaped ; gill rakers 6 + 10, the extreme ones being rudimentary ; scales on head and cheeks cycloid, elsewhere ctenoid.

Air bladder with 22 pairs of twig-like diverticula, each diverticulam in turn divided into a dorsal branch and a ventral branch. Each dorsal branch is again divided into many posterior branchlets, all pointing backward. Each ventral branch is again divided into many anterior branchlets, all pointing forward.

Colour grey dorsally, whitish grey below. Distal part of spinous and soft dorsal black terminally, ventrals, anal and caudal brownish. Opercle with a dark blotch.

Remarks : Jordon & Thompson give the dorsal fin rays as 29-31 ; the present specimens have lesser number (25-27).

Distribution : Japan, Taiwan island, China, South Africa, East coast of India (Visakhapatnam).

I am grateful to Dr. E. G. Silas for critically going through the manuscript and offering valuable suggestions. I am also grateful to Dr. K. V. Sekharan and to Mr. R. S. Lal Mohan for their suggestions.

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A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES (*QASIMELLA INDICA*) OF DEMOSPONGIAE FROM INDIAN SEAS

ABSTRACT

A new genus and species of demospongiae, *Qasimella indica* from the Gulf of Mannar is described and illustrated in this account.

Genus **Qasimella** gen. nov.

OPHILITASPONGIIDAE with tubular body, possessing a central cavity communicating to the exterior by a small oscule situated at the tip ; and attached to the substratum by a short, constricted peduncle. Megascleres, tylostyles of two sets, both with microspined heads ; and microscleres, toxas and arcuate isochelas.