

ON 'KOWALA THORACATA CUVIER AND VALENCIENNES' OF
CANTOR (1850)

ABSTRACT

Kowala thoracata Cantor, 1850 (*nec* Valenciennes, 1847) is considered a species of *Sardinella*, probably a synonym of *S. fimbriata* (Valenciennes).

CANTOR (1850) considered his *Kowala thoracata* to be the same as *Kowala* (= *Escualosa*) *thoracata* Valenciennes, 1847. Whitehead (1969) also included *Kowala thoracata* of Cantor (1850) in his synonymy of *Escualosa thoracata* (Valenciennes, 1847). The meristic data given by Cantor (1850) show that the dorsal, ventral and pectoral fin ray counts—D19, V8, P15 in his species are higher than those in *E. thoracata*—D15-16, V7, P12-14: Table 1; (*vide* Whitehead *et al.*, 1966: 70-72; Whitehead, 1967: 70-73). Cantor makes no mention of the lateral silvery line so characteristic

TABLE 1. Comparison of relevant meristic characters of *Sardinella fimbriata* (Val.) 'Kowala thoracata' (Cantor, 1850) and *Kowala* (= *Escualosa*) *thoracata* Val.

S. No.	Species	D	P	V	A	Scales 1.1
1.	<i>S. fimbriata</i> (Val., 1847) (Whitehead, 1967 : 50)	.. 18-20	15-16	8	18-21	45
2.	' <i>Kowala thoracata</i> ' (Cantor, 1850 : 1278-1279)	.. 19	15	8	21 or 22	Upwards of 45
3.	i. <i>Kowala</i> (= <i>Escualosa</i>) <i>thoracata</i> Val., 1847	.. 16	12-13	7	18-19	—
	ii. <i>Meletta lile</i> Val., 1847 = <i>Escualosa thoracata</i> (Val.) (Whitehead, 1967 : 71-72)	15	12	7	19	—
4.	<i>Rogenia argijrotaenia</i> Bleeker, 1852 = <i>Escualosa thoracata</i> (Val.) (Whitehead et al., 1966 : 71)	.. 16	13 or 14	7	19	—

of *Escualosa* Whitley, 1940. Whitehead (1969) also apparently overlooked what Cantor (1850) stated about the anal rays: 'the last slightly elongated' (p. 1279). As pointed out by Whitehead *et al.* (1966: 39), one of the characters by which *Sardinella* Valenciennes, 1847 can be distinguished from the other two related genera of the subfamily Clupeinae from the Indo-West Pacific: *Herklotsichthys* and *Escualosa*, is that in the former genus the last two anal rays are enlarged. Moreover, the number of pelvic rays in Cantor's '*K. thoracata*' is 8 (i, 7) as in *Sardinella*, whereas in *Escualosa* it is 7 (i, 6), (Whitehead, 1964). Although Cantor (1850) does not mention the actual number of elongated anal rays, his description and meristic data leave us in no doubt that this '*Kowala thoracata*' is not *Kowala* (= *Escualosa*) *thoracata* Valenciennes, 1847, and that it is a species of *Sardinella*, probably *S. fimbriata* (Val.) (*vide* Whitehead, 1967: 50-52, for description of lectotype and paralectotypes of this species).

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