CALLOGOBIOUS TRIFASCIATUS A NEW GOBIOID FISH FROM
MAYABUNDER, MIDDLE ANDAMAN ISLAND

A. G. K. MENON* AND T. K. CHATTERJEE

Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

ABSTRACT

A new species of Gobioid fish, Callogobius trifasciatus is described from Mayabunder, Middle Andamans. The present species is closely related to C. hasseltii and C. selateri, but can be distinguished by the number of scales in the longitudinal series and by the nature of caudal fin. The three distinct bands found in C. trifasciatus, further distinguishes it from the other two species.

The genus Callogobius Bleeker, 1874, is represented by 7 species in the Indo-Malay-Archipelago (Menon and Chatterjee, 1974). During an ichthyological survey of the Andaman-Nicobar group of islands, the senior author collected two specimens of a fish belonging to the genus Callogobius ranging from 31.0–32.0 mm in standard length, from Mayabunder, Middle Andaman. These specimens differ from all the so far known species and are, therefore, described here as a new species and named as Callogobius trifasciatus.

Material: Two specimens including the Holotype, 31.0–32.0 mm, standard length; from Mayabunder, Middle Andaman Island, collected by A. G. K. Menon, on 10.2.1970.

Measurements: Length of head 31.2–32.1 (M = 31.65) percent, height of body at D₁ origin, 19.5–21.6 (M = 20.55) percent, at D₂ origin 19.0–20.1 (M = 19.55) percent of standard length. Diameter of eye 20.0–20.9 (M = 20.45) percent, bony interorbital space 18.2–18.6 (M = 18.40) percent, snout 36.4–37.2 (M = 36.80) percent of standard length. Height of first dorsal fin 10.3–10.4 (M = 10.35) percent, height of second dorsal fin 10.1–10.2 (M = 10.15) percent of standard length.

First dorsal fin base 16.9–18.6 (M = 17.75) percent, second dorsal fin base 22.6–23.9 (M = 23.2) percent of standard length. Distance between anterior tip of snout and origin of first dorsal fin 39.7–41.0 (M = 40.35) percent, distance between anterior tip of

* Present Address: School of Ichthyology, Soutern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Madras – 28.
Figure — 1 Callogobius trifasciatus Menon and Chatterjee.
A Lateral view of the Holotype (ZSI Reg. No. F 7144/2)
B Scale of the same.
C Dorsal view of the head of the same.
D Pelvic fin of the same.

Snout and origin of first dorsal fin 39.7–41.0 (M = 40.35) percent, distance between anterior tip of snout and origin of second dorsal fin 59.0–59.7 (M = 59.35) percent of standard length. Pelvic fin does not reach anal, shorter than head, 18.1–18.6 (M = 18.35) percent, distance between anterior tip of snout and origin of pelvic fin 37.3–38.7 (M = 38.00) percent of standard length. Pectoral fin shorter
than head, 24.4–25.4 (M = 24.90) percent, the distance between anterior tip of snout and origin of pectoral, fin (38.1–38.8) (M = 38.45) percent of standard length. Anal fin situated below second dorsal fin, length of the anal base 22.8–23.2 (M = 23.00) percent, height 10.0–10.2 (M = 10.10) percent, distance between anterior tip and the origin of anal fin 58.0–60.4 (M = 59.20) percent of standard length. Caudal fin shorter than head, 20.8–23.9 (M = 22.35) percent of standard length. Length of caudal peduncle 25.0–25.8 (M = 25.40) percent of standard length.

**Meristic character:** About 8 transverse rows of papillated ridges and about five longitudinal rows of papillated ridges (Fig. 1 A and C). About eight very short gill rakers. First dorsal fin with 6 rays, second dorsal fin with 12, pelvic 5, pectoral 14–15, anal 10, and caudal with 20–21 rays.

**Teeth:** Several rows of very minute and fine teeth in bands on both the jaws.

**Scales:** Ctenoid posteriorly (Fig. 1B), cycloid anteriorly, moderate slightly larger posteriorly, 36 rows along longitudinal series, 7–8 in transverse series counted from origin of anal fin up, about 12 in predorsal series; embedded scales on cheek and opercle; breast scaled.

**Colouration:** Brownish mottled with 3 distinct darker and broad transverse bands, one below first dorsal, another below the hinder part of the second dorsal and another at the caudal peduncle.

**Distribution:** Mayabunder, Middle Andaman.

**Holotype:** Deposited in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta; Reg. No. F 7144/2; Loc. Mayabunder, Middle Andaman; 32.0 mm S. L.; A. G. K. Menon, 10.2.1970.

**Paratype:** One, deposited in Zoological Survey of Idda, Calcutta; Reg. No. F 7145/2; 31.0 mm. S. L.; bearing the same data as holotype.

**Diagnosis and Affinities:** *Callogobius trifasciatus* is closely related to *C. hasseltii* and *C. sclateri* in having scales ctenoid posteriorly and cycloid anteriorly but the new species can easily be distinguished from both of these species in number of scales in longitudinal series (40–45 in *C. hasseltii* versus 36 in *C. trifasciatus* sp. nov. versus 28–32 in *C. sclateri*) in the nature of caudal fin (caudal fin longer than head in *C. trifasciatus* sp. nov. versus caudal fin as long as head *C. sclateri*). The three distinct bands found in *C. trifasciatus* further distinguish it from the other two.

**REFERENCES**