First Reliable Record of the Sickle pomfret, *Taractichthys steindachneri* (Bramidae: Perciformes) from Korea

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**ABSTRACT**  *Taractichthys steindachneri* is described based on two specimens (224.7 ~ 406.5 mm SL) collected from the south sea including the adjacent water of Jeju Island, representing a reliable first record from Korea. The species is characterized by having well-separated each pelvic fin, semi-circular groove on dorsal surface of caudal peduncle, well-elongated dorsal and anal fin rays, nearly uniformly blackish body color with white margined caudal fin.

**Key words**: *Taractichthys steindachneri*, Bramidae, first reliable record, Korea, description

Recently we obtained two specimens belongs to the genus *Taractichthys* Mead and Maul, 1958, from the South Sea including the adjacent waters of Jeju Island, Korea. Due to well-developed dorsal and anal fins and lunate caudal fin with white posterior margin, they were readily identified as the Sickle pomfret, *Taractichthys steindachneri* (Döderlein in Steindachner and Döderlein, 1883). It was at the northern coastal waters of Jeju Island in December 2003 that the Sickle pomfret has firstly been occurred from Korea and the fish was prepared as a stuffed specimen by a local taxidermist. After two year later, the species was also caught from Ganggu Port, Yeongdeok-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do, located at the southeastern coast of the Korean Peninsula by an angler and it was not preserved unfortunately. Although Lee et al. (2000) already included the species into their list of fish names of Korea and proposed a new Korean name, “Huin-ggo-ri-ta-rag-chi” for the species, any detailed description of *T. steindachneri* was not given for understanding its morphological characteristics as well as identification to species level up to date, especially on the basis of voucher specimens collected from Korea. We, therefore, present a detailed description of *T. steindachneri* on the basis of two specimens collected from Korea in this study.

Counts and measurements followed those of Hubbs and Lagler (1958). Number of vertical fins and vertebrae were counted from radiographs, and the vouchers are deposited at the National Institute of Biological Resources (NIBR-P), Korea.

**Genus Taractichthys  Mead and Maul, 1958**  


**Taractichthys steindachneri**  
(Döderlein in Steindachner and Döderlein, 1883)  
(Korean name: Huin-ggo-ri-ta-rag-chi)  
(Fig. 1; Table 1)  
*Argo steindachneri* Döderlein in Steindachner and Döderlein, 1883: 242, Pl. 7 (type locality: Tokyo, Japan).  

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Material examined. NIBR-P4556, 406.5 mm in standard length (SL), Yokjado(Is.), Yoki-Myeon, Tongyeong-si, Gyeonggamsan-do, Korea, 3 February 2009, collected by Ji-Hee Park, 10–14 m depth; NIBR-P16209, 224.7 mm SL, Seongsan-ri, Seogwipo-si, Jeju-do, Korea, 25 June 2009, collected by Jin-Woo Park, uncataloged stuffed specimen*, 424.6 mm SL, Hanlim, Jeju-si, Jeju-do, Korea, 10 December, 2003, collected by Cheol-Ho Shin*, not included in counts and measurements.

Diagnosis. A *Taraichthys* species having a well-separated pelvic fin originating before pectoral fin base, semicircular groove on dorsal surface of caudal peduncle, 34–38 lateral line scales, and blackish body with whitish-margined lunate caudal fin.

Description. Dorsal fin rays V, 30–31; anal fin rays IV, 21–22; pectoral fin rays 19–20; pelvic fin rays I, 5; principal caudal fin rays 17; scales in horizontal series 34–35; pre-dorsal scales ca. 30; gill rakers 8+1+12 = 21; vertebrae 44–46.

Proportions as % SL: body depth 56.3–64.6; body width 17.1–20.9; head length 31.3–33.8; head width 18.2–19.0; snout length 9.1–9.3; upper jaw length 16.2–16.6; distance between nostrils 2.8–2.9; orbital diameter 7.1–7.7; interorbital width 12.1–12.8; snout to origin of dorsal fin 47.2–48.9; snout to origin of pelvic fin 36.1; snout to origin of anal fin 59.6–60.9; base of dorsal fin 58.9–64.7; base of anal fin 45.6–51.4; caudal peduncle depth 7.1–7.7; caudal peduncle length 10.6–11.2; pectoral fin length 34.1–41.2; pelvic fin length 7.7–11.3; distance between origin of pelvic fin 7.2–7.9; longest dorsal fin ray 30.8–45.5 (broken tip); longest anal fin ray 39.9–64.2 (broken tip).

Body ovate, high, and strongly compressed. Caudal peduncle low and short with a semicircular groove on dorsal surface. Dorsal contour of head distictively convex. Eye rather large and interorbital space convex.
Mouth large and oblique; maxillary tip reaching a vertical at center of pupil; small conical teeth on both jaws arranged in four to five irregular rows. No teeth on vomer and palatines. Gill membranes free from isthmus. Origin of dorsal fin posterior end of opercle. Dorsal and anal fins nearly identical in their shape and their anterior portions elongated. Pectoral fin large and pointed, its tip far extending a vertical at middle portion of dorsal fin. Both pelvic fins small and short, widely separated from each other, and its origin before upper end of pectoral fin base. Caudal fin deeply lunate, tips of both lobes somewhat elongated. Scales large and cycloid. Head, except around nostrils and lower jaw, and body fully scaled.

Color when fresh. Head and body uniformly blackish, except for caudal fin with whitish-embryonated. Upper portion of pectoral fin, and posterior margins of pelvic and anal fins transparent.

Color after preservation. Nearly same color when fresh.

Distribution. Known from the Indo-Pacific and Eastern Central Pacific: eastern and southern coastal waters (Ganggu, Tongyeong, Jeju) in Korea (present study).

Remarks. The present materials collected from the Korean waters are readily identified as a member of the genus Taractichthys of the Breamidae due to having falcate dorsal and anal fins, pelvic fins originated before upper end of pectoral fin base and semicircular groove on dorsal surface of caudal peduncle (Hattooka, 2002). In the genus, only two species of T. longipinnis and T. steindachneri have been recognized as valid (Mead, 1972). The former is known from tropical and warm temperate Atlantic including western Baltic Sea and North Sea, and the latter from Red Sea as well as Indo-Pacific including South Africa and Réunion east to Hawaiian Islands and southern California, north to southern Japan, south to New Caledonia (see Mead, 1972 and Catalog of Fishes electronic version by Fricke and Eschmeyer for more information). As mentioned by Fricke and Eschmeyer, Taractichthys steindachneri (originally spelled as Argo steindachneri n. sp., n. gen. Döderl.) was not described or discussed in the original reference, except for name listed on the figure caption page illustrated on Pl. 7 (Steindachner and Döderlein, 1883: 34, 242). Then, we could not compare the present specimens with the original description or type specimen of Argo steindachneri for strict identification to species level. However, the external appearance of the present Korean specimens were in well accordance with that of original figure of A. steindachneri, i.e., general body shape with rounded head, falcate dorsal and anal fins as well as lunate caudal fin with white margined. In addition, we also compared the morphological data taken from the Korean specimens with those of the previous reports as shown in Table 1, and could not find out any remarkable differences between them, except for the number of gill rakers. Although the Korean specimens have larger number of gill rakers than even those from Japan, further studies are needed to determine the difference.

According to the previous reports (Mead, 1972; Smith, 1986), Taractichthys steindachneri is easily differentiated from T. longipinnis by smaller number of lateral line scales (34 – 38 vs. 39 – 46 for the latter). Because the Korean name of T. steindachneri was already proposed by Lee et al. (2000) as “Huin-ggo-ri-ta-rag-chi”, we followed the name for the species.

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REFERENCES

우리나라 남해에서 출현한 새다래과(농어목) 한국미기록종, 흰꼬리타락치 *Taractichthys steindachneri*

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요 약: 과거 우리나라 남해에서 출현하는 것으로 알려졌던 농어목 새다래과의 한국미기록종 흰꼬리타락치 (*Taractichthys steindachneri*)에 대해 제주도를 포함한 남해에서 채집된 2개체(표준체장 224.7 ~ 406.5 mm)의 표본을 근거로 형태학적 특징을 상세히 기재하였다. 본 종은 양측 베타니미가 서로 멀리 떨어져 위치하는 점, 미방부 배측에 반엽상의 흠이 있는 점, 동지느러미와 뒷지느러미가 길게 신장하는 점, 그리고 체색이 전체적으로 검고 포니지느러미 후연이 백색인 점이 특징이다.

 찾아보기 날말: 새다래과, 흰꼬리타락치, 한국미기록종, 기재