THREADFINS OF THE WORLD
(Family Polynemidae)

AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF POLYNEMID SPECIES KNOWN TO DATE
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by

Hiroyuki Motomura
Ichthyology, Australian Museum
Sydney
Australia

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This document was prepared under the FAO Fisheries Department Regular Programme by the Species Identification Programme in the Marine Resources Service of the Fishery Resources Division. It is the third number in the new series: FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes.

The family Polynemidae (threadfins) is important in commercial and sport fisheries of tropical and subtropical seas, especially in the Middle and Near East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania, and west Africa. However, detailed fishery information is usually not available, largely because of difficulties with the correct identification of species. This difficulty is because of past taxonomic confusion and the similarity of overall body appearance and colour pattern of some species. Therefore, this catalogue is timely as an accurate and complete worldwide guide to the identification of polynemids. It is intended to help fisheries workers gather statistics and examine aspects of their biology that will be useful for the management of this fishery resource. The author has studied polynemids taxonomically on the basis of a large number of specimens, including all of available known types, in museum collections and markets throughout the world. He has published numerous scientific articles on polynemids, which were the source for most of the taxonomic and ecological information in this catalogue.

In view of the importance of overall body appearance for identification, photographs for all species have been included.

**Project managers:** Michel Lamboeuf and Jordi Lleonart (FAO, Rome).

**Scientific editor:** Kent Carpenter (Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, USA).

**Scientific reviser:** Nicoletta De Angelis (FAO, Rome).

**Editorial assistance:** Michèle Kautenberger-Longo (FAO, Rome).

**Scientific illustrator:** Emanuela D'Antoni (FAO, Rome).

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**Motomura, H.**

Threadfins of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of polynemid species known to date. Family Polynemidae.


**ABSTRACT**

This is the third number in the new FAO series of worldwide annotated and illustrated catalogues of major groups of organisms that enter marine fisheries. The present volume on the family Polynemidae includes 41 species belonging to 8 genera. There is an introductory section with general remarks on habitat and fisheries of the family, a glossary of technical terms, an illustrated key to each genus and all species, and a detailed account for all species. Species accounts include an illustration of each species, scientific and vernacular names, and information on habitat, biology, fisheries, size, relevant literature, and distribution. Following the species accounts are a list of nominal species in the family, a table of species by major marine fishing areas, and colour plates. A list of all nominal species and their present allocations is given. The work is fully indexed and there is a comprehensive list of references to pertinent literature.

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**Distribution**

*Author*
FAO Fisheries Officers
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Selector SC
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Randall and Arnold Suzumoto (BPBM: Ichthyology, Natural Sciences Department, Bishop Museum, Honolulu); Kunio Sasaki, Yoshihiko Machida and Hiromitsu Endo (BSKU: Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Kochi University, Kochi); William N. Eschmeyer, Tomio Iwamoto, David Catania, and Jon Fong (CAS: Department of Ichthyology, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco); Teguh Peristiwady (CRDOA: Center for Research and Development of Oceanology, Indonesian Institute of Science, Ambon); Alastair Graham, Peter R. Last, Gordon Yearsley and Daniel Gledhill (CSIRO: Division of Marine Research, Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organization, Hobart); Mary Anne Rogers and Kevin Swagel (FMNH: Fish Division, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago); Seishi Kimura (FRLM: Fisheries Research Laboratory, Mie University, Mie); Hitoshi Ida and Makoto Okamoto (FSKU: School of Fisheries Sciences, Kitasato University, Iwate); Kazuhiro Nakaya, Mamoru Yabe, and Hisashi Imamura (HUMZ: Laboratory of Marine Biodiversity, Graduate School of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University, Hakodate); Hiroshi Senou (KPM-NI: Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, Odawara); Kris Rhode and Andy Bentley (KU: Division of Ichthyology, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence); Karsten E. Hartel (MCZ: Ichthyology Department, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge); Claude Weber (MHNG: Department of Herpetology and Ichthyology, Museum of Natural History, Geneva); Patrice Pruvost and Jean-Claude Hureau, Nicolas Bailly and Philippe Béarez (MNHN: Laboratoire d’Ichthyologie Générale et Appliquée, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris); Yukio Iwatsuki (MUF: Division of Fisheries Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Miyazaki University, Miyazaki); Martin F. Gomon and Dianne Bray (NMV: Ichthyology, Museum of Victoria, Melbourne); Ernst Mikschi and Helmut Wellendorf (NMV: Fischsammlung, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Wien); Sven O. Kullander (NRM: Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Swedish Museum of Natural History Stockholm); Keiichi Matsuura and Geno Shinozuka (NSMT: Fishes Division, Department of Zoology, National Science Museum, Tokyo); Helen K. Larson, Barry C. Russell, Gavin Daily, and Steven Gregg (NTM: Natural Sciences, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin); Ukkrit Satapoomin (PMBC: Phuket Marine Biological Center, Phuket); Pornsil Pholupinthu and Vachira Lheknim (PSUZC: Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Prince of Songkla University, Songkla); Jeffrey W. Johnson (QM: Ichthyology, Queensland Museum, Brisbane); Martien J. P. van Oijen (RMNH: Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden); Phillip C. Heemstra and M. Eric Anderson (SAIAB: South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, formerly RUSI, Grahamstown); Michelle G. van der Merwe and Liz Holen (SAM: Marine Biology, Life Sciences, South African Museum, Cape Town); Hang-Ling Wu (SFU: Shanghai Fisheries University, Shanghai); Michael Gudo (SMF: Sektion Ichthyologie, Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt); Douglas W. Nelson (UMMZ: Division of Fishes, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Michigan); Tetsuo Yoshino (URM: Department of Marine Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa); Susan L. Jewett, Lisa Palmer, Sandra J. Raredon, Shirleen Smith, and Jeffrey T. Williams (USNM: Division of Fishes, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC); Sue Morrison (WAM: Fish Department, Western Australian Museum of Natural Science, Perth); Masayoshi Hayashi (YCM: Yokosuka City Museum, Yokosuka); Issac J.H. Isbrücker (ZMA: Sektie Ichthyologie, Zoologisches Museum Amsterdam, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam); Hans-Joachim Paepe (ZMB: Ichthyologischen Abteilung, Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin); Horst Wilkens (ZMH: Zoologisches Institut und Zoologisches Museum der Universität Hamburg, Hamburg); Peter K.L. Ng and Kelvin K.P. Lim (ZRC: Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore); A.K. Karmakar (ZSI: Fish Section, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta); K. Venkataraman (ZSI/MBS: Marine Biological Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai); P.T. Cherian and K. Rema Devi (ZSI/SRS: Fish Section, Southern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai); Kazuo Sakamoto (ZUMT: Department of Zoology, University of Tokyo, Tokyo); Ross M. Feltes (State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick); Matthew Pember (Centre for Fish and Fisheries Research, Murdoch University, Murdoch); Reiji Masuda (Fisheries Research Station, Kyoto University, Maizuru).
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# Table of Contents

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT ............................................. iii  
Acknowledgements ...................................................................... iv  

1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................ 1  
   1.1 Habitat and Biology ............................................................. 1  
   1.2 Fisheries ............................................................................. 4  
   1.3 Classification of the Family Polynemidae .............................. 4  
   1.4 Illustrated Glossary of Technical Terms and Measurements ... 6  
   1.5 Plan of the Catalogue .......................................................... 8  

2. SYSTEMATIC CATALOGUE ..................................................... 9  
   2.1 Diagnostic Features of the Family Polynemidae ................. 9  
   2.2 Notes on the Identification of Polynemids .......................... 9  
   2.3 Illustrated Key to the Genera of Polynemids ....................... 10  
   2.4 Information by Genus and Species. ................................. 13  

   *Eleutheronema* Bleeker, 1862 ........................................... 13  

   Key to the Species of *Eleutheronema* .................................... 14  
   *Eleutheronema rhadinum* (Jordan and Evermann, 1902) ........ 15  
   *Eleutheronema tetracentrum* (Shaw, 1804) ......................... 16  
   *Eleutheronema tridactylum* (Bleeker, 1849) ....................... 19  

   *Filimanus* Myers, 1936 .............................................. 20  

   Key to the Species of *Filimanus* ........................................... 21  
   *Filimanus heptadactyla* (Cuvier, 1829) ............................... 23  
   *Filimanus hexanema* (Cuvier, 1829) .................................. 24  
   *Filimanus perplexa* Feltes, 1991 .................................... 25  
   *Filimanus sealei* (Jordan and Richardson, 1910) ......... 27  
   *Filimanus similis* Feltes, 1991 ........................................ 28  
   *Filimanus xanthonema* (Valenciennes, 1831) .................... 29  

   *Galeoides* Günther, 1860 .............................................. 31  
   *Galeoides decadactylus* (Bloch, 1795). ............................ 31  

   *Leptomelanosoma* Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001 ............... 33  
   *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Shaw, 1804) ......................... 33  

   *Parapolynemus* Feltes, 1993 ........................................... 35  
   *Parapolynemus verekeri* (Saville-Kent, 1889). .................. 35  

   *Pentanemus* Günther, 1860 ............................................ 37  
   *Pentanemus quinquarius* (Linnaeus, 1758). ..................... 37  

   *Polydactylus* Lacepède, 1803 ........................................ 39  

   Key to the Indo-Pacific Species of *Polydactylus* .................. 40
Key to the Eastern Pacific Species of *Polydactylus* ................................................................. 43
Key to the Atlantic Species of *Polydactylus* .................................................................................. 43

*Polydactylus approximans* (Lay and Bennett, 1839) ................................................................. 44
*Polydactylus bifurcus* Motomura, Kimura and Iwatsuki, 2001 ................................................. 46
*Polydactylus longipes* Motomura, Okamoto and Iwatsuki, 2001 .............................................. 48
*Polydactylus macrochir* (Günther, 1867) .................................................................................... 49
*Polydactylus macrophthalmus* (Bleeker, 1858) ........................................................................ 51
*Polydactylus malagasyensis* Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001 ................................................... 54
*Polydactylus microstomus* (Bleeker, 1851) ................................................................................ 55
*Polydactylus mullani* (Hora, 1926) ............................................................................................ 57
*Polydactylus multiradiatus* (Günther, 1860) ............................................................................. 59
*Polydactylus nigrpinnis* Munro, 1964 .......................................................................................... 61
*Polydactylus octonemus* (Girard, 1858) ..................................................................................... 62
*Polydactylus oligodon* (Günther, 1860) ..................................................................................... 63
*Polydactylus opercularis* (Gill, 1863) ......................................................................................... 65
*Polydactylus persicus* Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001 ............................................................... 66
*Polydactylus plebeius* (Broussonet, 1782) ................................................................................ 68
*Polydactylus quadrifilis* (Cuvier, 1829) ..................................................................................... 70
*Polydactylus sexfilis* (Valenciennes, 1831) ................................................................................ 72
*Polydactylus sextarius* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) ................................................................. 74
*Polydactylus siamensis* Motomura, Iwatsuki and Yoshino, 2001 ........................................... 75
*Polydactylus virginicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ................................................................................ 77

*Polynemus* Linnaeus, 1758 ........................................................................................................ 78

Key to the Species of *Polynemus* ............................................................................................... 79

*Polynemus aquilonaris* Motomura, 2003 .................................................................................... 81
*Polynemus dubius* Bleeker, 1854 ............................................................................................. 82
*Polynemus hornadayi* Myers, 1936 ........................................................................................... 84
*Polynemus kapuasensis* Motomura and van Oijen, 2003 ....................................................... 86
*Polynemus melanochir ducis* Motomura and Sabaj, 2002 ......................................................... 87
*Polynemus melanochir melanochir* Valenciennes, 1831 .......................................................... 89
*Polynemus multifilis* Temminck and Schlegel, 1843 .............................................................. 91
*Polynemus paradiseus* Linnaeus, 1758 .................................................................................... 92

3. List of Nominal Species of *Polynemidae* ............................................................................. 95
4. List of Species by Major Fishing Areas ............................................................................... 97
5. Bibliography ............................................................................................................................ 100
6. Index of Scientific and Vernacular Names ......................................................................... 109
7. List of Colour Plates ............................................................................................................... 117