



THREADFINS OF THE WORLD

(Family Polynemidae)

AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF
POLYNEMID SPECIES KNOWN TO DATE



Food
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**AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF
POLYNEMID SPECIES KNOWN TO DATE**

by

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ISBN xx-x-xxxxxx-x

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

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.

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Cover illustration: Emanuela D'Antoni (FAO, Rome).

Motomura, H.

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

FAO Species Catalogue for Fishery Purposes. No. 3. Rome, FAO. 2004. 117 p., 151 figs, 6 pls.

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.

Distribution

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Regional Fisheries Councils and Commissions
Selector SC

Acknowledgements

Many persons have assisted with the preparation of this catalogue and my research on polynemid fishes. I am particularly grateful to Kent E. Carpenter (Department of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, Virginia) who read the initial manuscript and offered helpful comments, Pere Oliver (Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Madrid), Michel Lambouef (FIRM: Species Identification and Data Programme, Marine Resources Service, Fisheries Resources Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, Rome), Luca Garibaldi (FIDI: Fishery Statistician, Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit, FAO), Emanuela D'Antoni, Nicoletta De Angelis, Michèle Kautenberger-Longo (FIRM: Species Identification and Data Programme, Marine Resources Service, Fisheries Resources Division, FAO) and other FAO staff whose endeavours have made possible this catalogue, and Graham S. Hardy (Ngunguru, New Zealand).

I am grateful to the curators and technical staff of the museums that have loaned or donated specimens and radiographs and provided me with literature or information on specimens. In particular, I thank Barbara Brown and Xenia Freilich (AMNH: Department of Ichthyology, Division of Vertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History, New York); Jeffrey M. Leis, Thomas Trnski, Mark A. McGrouther, Kerry L. Parkinson, John R. Paxton, John Pogonoski, Sally E. Reader, Amanda Hay, Domine Clark, Matthew Lockett, Brooke M. Carson-Ewart, and Douglass F. Hoese (AMS: Ichthyology, Australian Museum, Sydney); Mark H. Sabaj, Mike Littmann, and Dominique D. Dagit (ANSP: Department of Ichthyology, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia); Kwang-Tsao Shao (ASIZP: Laboratory of Fish Ecology and Evolution, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Taipei); James Maclaine [BMNH: Fish Section, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History), London]; John E. 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I extend my gratitude to Shinji Tsukawaki and Takahiro Kamiya (Kanazawa University, Kanazawa), M.N. Venugopal and Anirban Chakraborty (Department of Fishery Biology, College of Fisheries, Mangalore), Arnucit Choochern (Bangkok), B.V. Seshagiri Rao and B. Ratnamala (Department of Zoology, D.N.R. College, Bhimavaram), M. Iqbal Djawad (Faculty of Marine and Fishery Sciences, Hasanuddin University, Makassar), Yasuwo Fukuyo and Mitsunori Iwataki (Asian Natural Environmental Science Center, University of Tokyo, Tokyo), Muna Faraj, Mohammad Al-Sarawi and Mahmoud Al-Khabbaz (Living Resources Department, Environment Public Authority, Kuwait) for their assistance in field work at various times.

I am grateful for the financial support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations, the Research Fellowships of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for Young Scientists, the Fujiwara Natural History Foundation, the Sasakawa Scientific Research Grant from the Japan Science Society, and the Ito Foundation for the Advancement of Ichthyology.

Special thanks are due to Gerald R. Allen and Mark Allen (WAM), Pedro Niny Duarte (Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of Azores, Azores), Phillip C. Heemstra, M. Eric Anderson, and James Stapley (SAIAB), Hitoshi Ida and Makoto Okamoto (FSKU), Johnny Jensen (Kastrup, Denmark), Jeffrey W. Johnson (QM), Seishi Kimura (FRLM), Hiroshi Kobayashi (Tokyo, Japan), Maurice Kottelat (Cornol, Switzerland), Keiichi Matsuura (NSMT), National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF, Shimizu, Japan); John E. Randall (BPBM), D. Ross Robertson (STRI: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Ancon, Panama), Mark H. Sabaj (ANSP), Hiroshi Senou (KPM-NI), Kwang-Tsao Shao (ASIZP), Erwin Schraml (Augsburg, Germany) and Eiji Yamamoto (Fukuoka, Japan), who made available their colour transparencies of polynemid fishes, and to the illustrator, Emanuela D'Antoni (FIRM) who kindly prepared the drawings for this catalogue. Finally, I thank Yuko Motomura who assisted in innumerable ways.

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
<i>Eleutheronema</i> Bleeker, 1862	13
Key to the Species of <i>Eleutheronema</i>	14
<i>Eleutheronema rhadinum</i> (Jordan and Evermann, 1902)	15
<i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i> (Shaw, 1804)	16
<i>Eleutheronema tridactylum</i> (Bleeker, 1849)	19
<i>Filimanus</i> Myers, 1936	20
Key to the Species of <i>Filimanus</i>	21
<i>Filimanus heptadactyla</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	23
<i>Filimanus hexanema</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	24
<i>Filimanus perplexa</i> Feltes, 1991	25
<i>Filimanus sealei</i> (Jordan and Richardson, 1910)	27
<i>Filimanus similis</i> Feltes, 1991	28
<i>Filimanus xanthonema</i> (Valenciennes, 1831)	29
<i>Galeoides</i> Günther, 1860	31
<i>Galeoides decadactylus</i> (Bloch, 1795)	31
<i>Leptomelanosoma</i> Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001	33
<i>Leptomelanosoma indicum</i> (Shaw, 1804)	33
<i>Parapolynemus</i> Feltes, 1993	35
<i>Parapolynemus verekeri</i> (Saville-Kent, 1889)	35
<i>Pentanemus</i> Günther, 1860	37
<i>Pentanemus quinquarius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	37
<i>Polydactylus</i> Lacepède, 1803	39
Key to the Indo-Pacific Species of <i>Polydactylus</i>	40

Key to the Eastern Pacific Species of <i>Polydactylus</i>	43
Key to the Atlantic Species of <i>Polydactylus</i>	43
<i>Polydactylus approximans</i> (Lay and Bennett, 1839)	44
<i>Polydactylus bifurcus</i> Motomura, Kimura and Iwatsuki, 2001	46
<i>Polydactylus longipes</i> Motomura, Okamoto and Iwatsuki, 2001	48
<i>Polydactylus macrochir</i> (Günther, 1867)	49
<i>Polydactylus macrophthalmus</i> (Bleeker, 1858)	51
<i>Polydactylus malagasyensis</i> Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001	54
<i>Polydactylus microstomus</i> (Bleeker, 1851)	55
<i>Polydactylus mullani</i> (Hora, 1926)	57
<i>Polydactylus multiradiatus</i> (Günther, 1860)	59
<i>Polydactylus nigripinnis</i> Munro, 1964	61
<i>Polydactylus octonemus</i> (Girard, 1858)	62
<i>Polydactylus oligodon</i> (Günther, 1860)	63
<i>Polydactylus opercularis</i> (Gill, 1863)	65
<i>Polydactylus persicus</i> Motomura and Iwatsuki, 2001	66
<i>Polydactylus plebeius</i> (Broussonet, 1782)	68
<i>Polydactylus quadrifilis</i> (Cuvier, 1829)	70
<i>Polydactylus sexfilis</i> (Valenciennes, 1831)	72
<i>Polydactylus sextarius</i> (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)	74
<i>Polydactylus siamensis</i> Motomura, Iwatsuki and Yoshino, 2001	75
<i>Polydactylus virginicus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	77
<i>Polynemus</i> Linnaeus, 1758	78
Key to the Species of <i>Polynemus</i>	79
<i>Polynemus aquilonaris</i> Motomura, 2003	81
<i>Polynemus dubius</i> Bleeker, 1854	82
<i>Polynemus hornadayi</i> Myers, 1936	84
<i>Polynemus kapuasensis</i> Motomura and van Oijen, 2003	86
<i>Polynemus melanochir dulcis</i> Motomura and Sabaj, 2002	87
<i>Polynemus melanochir melanochir</i> Valenciennes, 1831	89
<i>Polynemus multifilis</i> Temminck and Schlegel, 1843	91
<i>Polynemus paradiseus</i> 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