

First Records of *Uropterygius oligospondylus* (Anguilliformes: Muraenidae) from Minami-iwo-to Island, Southern Japan

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Four specimens from Minami-iwo-to island of Volcano Islands were identified as *Uropterygius oligospondylus* Chen, Randall, and Loh in Loh *et al.*, 2008. It is the first identified record from Japan and the northernmost record of the species. *Uropterygius oligospondylus* can be characterized by the following characters: total vertebrae 100–103; body gray with blackish reticular pattern; jaws teeth in two or three rows; anus close to mid-body; head 13.7–16.7% TL; trunk 32.8–36.6% TL; body depth at gill opening 5.8–8.3% TL; eye diameter 3.9–5.3% of head length; snout 16.2–20.3% of head length; and presence of a distinct notch above mid-eye. A new Japanese standard name “Kobu-kikai-utsubo” is proposed for the species. The position of the fourth infraorbital pores from original description should be revised as “far behind posterior end of eye”.

Key Words: *Uropterygius*, diagnosis, Japan, northernmost record, Iwo Islands.

Introduction

The genus *Uropterygius* Rüppell, 1838, the type genus of the subfamily Uropterygiinae of Muraenidae, is known as worldwide taxon comprised of 21 species. Of all congeners, 18 species are distributed in the Indo-Pacific (Böhlke and Smith 2002; Loh *et al.* 2008; Smith 2012). Most of these inhabit shallow waters above 100 m depth, some species, *e.g.*, *U. micropterus* (Bleeker, 1852) and *U. concolor* (Rüppell, 1838), can be found from tidepool and/or estuary waters. Seven valid and one unidentified species (Japanese standard name: Hoshi-kikai-utsubo) of the genus have been recorded from Japanese waters based on reliable specimens (Hatooka 2013; Koeda and Hibino 2017; Koeda 2018; Tashiro *et al.* 2018). In addition, Wada and Motomura (2019) reported one species *Uropterygius cf. polyspilus* based on only partial underwater photograph from Yaku-shima island.

During a field survey organized by KK, two moray eels identified as *Uropterygius oligospondylus* Chen, Randall, and Loh in Loh *et al.*, 2008 were collected from Minami-iwo-to island, Volcano Islands, southern Japan. In addition, two specimens of *U. oligospondylus* were found from museum collection collected by TS. These two were also collected from the same as above by the research team of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Tokyo Metropolitan Univer-

sity at 2007. Here these four specimens of the species are described in detail.

Materials and Methods

Counts and measurements follow Böhlke (1989). Most of measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm with digital calipers, and total, preanal, and tail lengths to the nearest 1 mm with 300- or 600-mm ruler. All vertebral counts were made from soft X-ray photos. Total length is abbreviated as TL. Sensory pores on head were counted both sides. Specimens for the present study are deposited in the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawai'i, U.S.A. (BPBM), the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum, Kanagawa, Japan (KPM), the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba (NSMT), the National Taiwan Ocean University, Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology, Department of Aquaculture (TOU-AE) and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Fishes, Washington D.C., U.S.A. (USNM).