

STUDY ON THE FISHES OF SUBFAMILY SCOMBRINAE FROM TAIWAN

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ABSTRACT

The present paper reports four species of Scombrinae found in Taiwan, which are *Scomber japonicus*, *S. australasicus*, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *R. faughni*. The first three species were collected by the authors from Nanfanao and Formosa Bank in November of 1970 and in April of 1971 respectively, while the last one which had been described as a new species in Matsui's work (1967) was collected from Taiwan, but it hasn't been found by the authors. These mentioned four mackerels are easy to be distinguished by some osteological characters. Before Matsui's review of the mackerel genera *Scomber* and *Rastrelliger* there were some confusion in phylogenetic positions. Spotted mackerel was named as *Scomber tapeinocephalus* by some earlier authors, however it is considered to be a synonym of *Scomber australasicus*. *Rastrelliger faughni* Matsui (1967) is reasonably considered to substitute for the misidentified *Scomber australasicus* de Beaufort (1951).

INTRODUCTION

Up to present, there are so many species of Scombrinae reported by many earlier authors, in fact, the phylogenetic position of these species are still confused.

In 1967, Matsui made a complete review of the mackerel genera *Scomber* and *Rastrelliger* based on several osteological characters. He pointed out that there were only six species of Scombrinae in the world even though many earlier authors separated them into many different species. As a result, he put *Scomber colias* Gmelin, *S. peruanus* Clemens, *S. diego* Ayres, *S. grex* Mitchell, *Pneumatophorus japonicus marplatensis* Lopez, *P. japonicus japonicus* Abe & Takashima and *P. peruanus* Jordan & Hubbs as synonyms of *Scomber japonicus* (Houttuyn). *Scomber japonicus tapeinocephalus* Abe & Takashima and *Scomber tapeinocephalus* Bleeker were considered to be synonyms of *Scomber australasicus* (Cuvier). *Scomber scombrus* Linnaeus has been an individual species for a long time. As to *Scomber loo* Lessen, *S. moluccensis* Bleeker, *S. chrysozonus* Rüppell, *S. microlepidotus* Rüppell, *S. reani* Day, *S. lepturus* Agassiz and *Rastrelliger serventyi* Whitley were all recognized as synonyms of *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier). *Rastrelliger faughni* was established as a new species to substitute for the misidentified *Scomber australasicus* de Beaufort (1951). In addition, the last species appeared in Matsui's report was *R. brachysoma* (Bleeker).

The authors found that the viewpoints of Matsui (1967) is quite reasonable. According to his opinion, we can easily find out four distinguished species belonging to two genera are occurred in Taiwan. They are *Scomber japonicus*, *S. australasicus*, *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *R. faughni*. But the last species hasn't been obtained by the authors