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ADDITIONS TO PREVIOUSLY REVISED FAMILIES OF FISHES OF THE
MUSEU MUNICIPAL DO FUNCHAL

No. VIII, Art. 21.

By G. E. MAUL

ORDER INIOMI

FAMILY PARALEPIDIDAE

Genus *Paralepis* Cuvier, 1817

Paralepis harryi Maul, 1954

Paralepis harryi Maul, 1954, *Bol. Mus. Mun. Funchal*, no. 7, art. 18, p. 54, figs. 19, 19 a-b-c, 20 & 21, tab. 9.

Of the large amount of material belonging to previously revised families which has come to hand since the publication of the last number of

the Boletim, only this one species is dealt with here. This addition to the Museum's collection is of particular interest, as the original description of *P. harryi* was based on a single, somewhat damaged specimen, whereas the four examples described below are, except for one, in a very good state of preservation. It has been possible to show that the lack of teeth and gill-rakers, described as probably due to the action of the gastric juices, is in fact typical for this species – for specimens of this size at least. Furthermore, a description of the scales overlying the tube of the lateral line could be given and the assumption that they must be equal in size to the surrounding ones be confirmed.

Material

No.	Source	Date	Condition
6040	Stomach of <i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	9.VIII.1955	Only head and anterior half of trunk existing
6052	Stomach of <i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	11.VIII.1955	Cut in two but otherwise good
6053	Stomach of <i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	11.VIII.1955	Good
6069	Stomach of <i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	12.VIII.1955	Good

Measurements in mm.

No.	6069	6053	6052	6040
Total length	259	233		
Standard length	256	212		
Head	52	47.5	43	43
Snout	21	19	17.5	17.5
Orbit	9.5	9.3	9	9
Maxillary	19.5	19	17	17
Interorbital	7	6.5	6.2	6.5
Greatest depth	ca 20	19.5		
Least depth of caudal peduncle	8	7.5	7	
Greatest width	ca 12	ca. 10		
Snout to origin of pectoral	51	48	44	44
» » » dorsal	137	124		
» » » ventral	142	131		
» » » anal	180	165		
» » » adipose	208	188		
Longest ray of pectoral	27.5	25	23	24
» » » dorsal	15	15		
» » » ventral	11	11	11	
» » » anal	15	15	15	
Base of dorsal	12	11	9	
» » anal	35	32	30	
Depth of head at centre of eye	16	15	1.54	14

Counts

Dorsal	11	12	12	
Anal	23	24	24	
Pectoral	16	17	17	17

*Description**: Head 4.46 to 4.54, greatest depth about 11 to 12 in standard length. Predorsal length 1.69 to 1.72, preventral length 1.62 to 1.66, pre-anal-fin length 1.28 to 1.31 in standard length. Snout 2.46 to 2.50, orbit 4.78 to 5.47, maxillary 2.50 to 2.67, interorbital 6.61 to 7.43, depth of head at centre of eye 2.97 to 3.25, least depth of caudal peduncle 6.14 to 6.50 in head length.

Eyes with pupils conspicuously larger than lens. Posterior end of maxillaries almost or just reach vertical through anterior border of orbit. Nostrils close together, somewhat nearer eyes than snout-tip.

Border of upper jaws formed by premaxillaries. Supramaxillary long and rod-shaped in its anterior two thirds, thin and flat in its posterior one third. The flat part overlies the maxillary laterally, whereas the rod-shaped part runs along the upper edge of the latter, nearly reaching the anterior one third of it. The foramina of the anterior process of the premaxillaries vary somewhat in size but can all be called minute and are half-moon-shaped. End of mandible obliquely truncate, with a distinct knob below.

Teeth absent on premaxillaries, maxillaries and vomer in all four specimens. A few very small teeth along lateral outer upper edges of tongue and in two specimens two or three very short moderately strong teeth on palatines. There is no trace of any gill-rakers on any of these specimens and their state of preservation warrants without any doubt that there has been no accidental loss.

The scales are cycloid and very caducous, and cover the whole body, on head only the top, tip of snout and lower jaw being free of them. Of about 45 circuli only about 17 are continuous, the rest running off the scale obliquely on both sides. An approximate count of oblique rows of scales between end of head and tail fin, which could be made on No. 6053, was 135. On the two larger specimens there are big patches with all the scales perfectly preserved, and here the perforated lateral-line scales, of the type as figured by Harry** for the genotype of *Paralepis* could be observed.

Fins small. Dorsal 11-12; anal 23-24; pectorals 16-17.

This species seems to be fairly rare compared to most other *Paralepidids*, and it is curious to note that all 5 specimens were found at dates which are rather close in relation to the season of the year. Particularly the successive occurrence of the last 4 specimens may indicate that shoals of this species visit Madeiran waters at a certain time of the year. Only a repetition of lots more seasonally bound material will, of course, allow us to draw definite conclusions.

* Measurements compared to standard length refer to Nos. 6053 and 6069. Measurements taken in anterior part, up to somewhat before dorsal origin, and compared to head, refer to all four specimens, whereas those taken in part posterior to dorsal origin only refer to Nos. 6052, 6053 and 6069.

** 1953, Genera of *Paralepididae*, Pacific Science, vol. 7, p. 236, fig. 10-c.