

Contribution à l'étude du genre *Pseudoscopelus* (Chiasmodontidae) avec une espèce nouvelle, *P. pierbartus* n. sp., deux synonymies junior et une clé d'identification des espèces valides



The genus *Pseudoscopelus* Lutken, 1892 is easily distinguished from the other Chiasmodontidae by the presence of well-defined rows of photophores. Until 2005, eight species were known. *Pseudoscopelus scriptus* was the first described by Lutken in 1892, then *P. sagamianus* by Tanaka in 1908, *P. stellatus* by Beebe in 1932 and *P. altipinnis* by Parr in 1933. Later in 1934, Fowler described three new species: *P. microps*, *P. cephalus*, and *P. obtusifrons*. These three species, known from only one specimen each, have not been recorded since. Lastly, an easily distinguishable species, *P. scutatus*, was discovered by Krefft in 1971. In a recent review, Prokoviev and Kukuev (2005, 2006) confirmed the validity of all species and described a new one *P. aphos*, distinguishable by the absence of photophores. Our study proposes some different conclusion. A total of 58 specimens have been examined, four of them on photography. These fishes are deposited in the collections of the Museum d'histoire naturelle de La Rochelle (MHNL), the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen (ZMUC) or the National Museum of Natural History of

Washington (USNM). We followed the standard method for counts and measurements. After examination, we describe a new species: *P. pierbartus* characterized by long pectoral fins extending beyond the 5(th) anal fin ray, teeth curved toward the front on the posterior part of the premaxilla and a photophore group on the caudal peduncle composed of three double rows forming an arrow in the direction of the head. We also propose to consider *P. microps* as a junior synonym of *P. altipinnis* and, similarly, *P. cephalus* with *P. scriptus*. *P. scriptus*, *P. altipinnis* and *P. scutatus* are three valid species and numerous specimens are available in museum collections. *P. obtusifrons* is also valid but few specimens seem to be available. The descriptions provided by Lutken, Parr, Krefft and Fowler allow their identification. According to Tanaka's original figure, the strong difference between *P. sagamianus* and *P. scriptus* is the position of the anus at a distance equal to the eye diameter of the anal fin. However, we didn't find a valid specimen. The types were lost and the 6 specimens from the examined materials identified as *P. sagamianus* were actually *P. scriptus*. Even Nakabo's illustrations of *P. sagamianus* (1993) show an anus close to the anal fin. So, to our knowledge, the validity of this species depends on the lost record of 1908. *P. stellatus* was not identified since its description by Beebe. The specimen is a juvenile and is too damaged for being re-examined. If the adult form is similar to that of the juvenile, this species will be valid. However, a study of juvenile forms of *Pseudoscopelus* is required. Finally, in the future, we recommend the group of photophores for identification and/or description of *Pseudoscopelus* spp.; a key is included to this study. Considering the numerous anatomical differences, like the presence of photophores and the form of the otoliths, between *Pseudoscopelus* and the other Chiasmodontidae, future study is required to determine whether the specimens currently included in the genus *Pseudoscopehis* should be placed in a new family. La plupart des espèces du genre *Pseudoscopelus* n'ont été décrites qu'avec un nombre très restreint de spécimens. Malgré une révision récente (Prokoviev et Kukuev, 2005, 2006), la présente étude s'est attachée à vérifier la validité des espèces décrites jusqu'alors. Nos résultats diffèrent et nous conduisent à considérer *P. microps* Fowler, 1934 et *P. cephalus* Fowler, 1934 comme des synonymes junior de, respectivement, *P. altipinnis* Parr, 1933 et *P. scriptus* Lütken, 1892. La validité de deux espèces, *P. sagamianus* et *P. stellatus*, reste toujours à confirmer. Enfin, une nouvelle espèce découverte dans le golfe de Gascogne est décrite : *P. pierbartus* n. sp. Nous recommandons de considérer à l'avenir les caractéristiques des groupes de photophores chez les spécimens du genre *Pseudoscopelus* lors de toutes identifications ou descriptions ; une clé d'identification est proposée principalement dans ce sens.

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