

A REVISION OF THE GOBIID FISH GENUS *KELLOGGELLA*

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Plates 1-3, Figures 1-3.

Manuscript received, 14th March, 1974.
Manuscript revised, 20th June, 1974.

SUMMARY

The genus *Kelloggella* is diagnosed on the basis of the four known species. The nominal genera *Itbaya*, *Atuona*, and *Agunia* are placed in the synonymy of *Kelloggella*. The four species are compared and *K. centralis* is described as new.

INTRODUCTION

The four goby species of the genus *Kelloggella* are among the smallest fishes known. The largest specimen recorded is 26 mm standard length. Because of the small size of the species, many of the features characterizing the genus and those separating the species have been overlooked or incorrectly reported. This situation has led to the description of five species placed in five different genera. The discovery of a new species from Eniwetok and Rarotonga led to the present revision.

Jenkins (1903) described the first known species, an Hawaiian species, in the New World genus *Enypnias*, as *E. oligolepis*. The generic placement was based on the alleged occurrence of scales on the posterior part of the body. Examination of recently collected material and the original material has failed to reveal any scales or scale pockets. Jordan and Seale (1906) described *Kelloggella cardinalis* from Samoa as the type species of *Kelloggella*. They also allocated *E. oligolepis* to *Kelloggella*. The genus was characterized as having a naked body and an elongate head and body, but no mention was made of the tricuspid teeth characteristic of the genus. Bean and Weed (1912) later reported the tricuspid teeth in *Kelloggella*. Herre (1927) redescribed *K. cardinalis* from the Philippines, as a new species and genus, *Itbaya nuda*. The genus *Itbaya* was diagnosed as having tricuspid teeth in the lower jaw only and a naked body. The genus was also characterized as having an interorbital crest, which is developed only in large individuals and is accentuated by dehydration upon preservation. Herre (1935) subsequently described *Atouna tricuspidata* from the Marquesas with tricuspid teeth in both jaws and the naked body. He compared the genus with *Itbaya* separating the two on the basis of the dentition. Fowler (1946) described the fourth genus *Agunia*, with *A. quindecimfasciata* as the type species, virtually identical with *K. oligolepis*. Fowler incorrectly reported four dorsal spines, rather than six. He separated *Agunia* from *Itbaya* on the basis of the deeper body, longer pectoral fins, and barred coloration of *Agunia*. He noted the tricuspid teeth, but made no comparison with *K. oligolepis*. Undoubtedly much of the confusion arose due to the lack of comparative material and technical difficulties in studying teeth in 2 mm jaws.