

***Toxotes kimberleyensis*, a New Species of Archerfish (Pisces: Toxotidae) from Fresh Waters of Western Australia**

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ABSTRACT. *Toxotes kimberleyensis* n.sp. is described from 22 specimens, 52.5–126.3 mm SL, collected from freshwater streams in the Kimberley region of northwestern Australia. It was previously identified as *Toxotes oligolepis* Bleeker, a poorly known species from Indonesia. However, re-examination of Bleeker's type specimen indicates significant differences between the two species relating to the length of the dorsal spines, and lateral-line scale count. A key to the seven species of *Toxotes* is provided.

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The perciform family Toxotidae is well known for its ability to shoot down insects from overhanging vegetation with a jet of water squirted from the mouth. The family contains a single genus, *Toxotes*, which ranges from India to Vanuatu, and northern Australia to the Philippines. These fishes are common inhabitants of mangrove-lined estuaries and freshwater streams. Allen (1978, 2001) recognized six species: *T. blythi* Boulenger, *T. chatareus* (Hamilton), *T. jaculatrix* (Pallas), *T. lorentzi* Weber, *T. microlepis* Günther, and *T. oligolepis* Bleeker. The last mentioned species was described from a single specimen from Indonesia with questionable collecting data, but most likely originated from the island of Buru. Although the population from the Kimberley district of Western Australia was previously identified as *T. oligolepis*, I stated in the 1978 review that “there is a possibility that it may represent a distinct species” due to its greater number of lateral-line scales and deeper body. An opportunity to re-examine Bleeker's holotype of *T. oligolepis* and directly compare it with specimens from

the Western Australia in 2001 revealed additional significant differences. Therefore, it is concluded that the population from Western Australia is a distinct new species, which is described herein.

Materials and methods

Proportional measurements were taken with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. The methods for counts and measurements are as follows: the last dorsal and anal soft rays are split at the base and are counted as a single element; principal caudal rays include all rays extending to the posterior margin of the caudal fin; lateral-line scale counts include all tubed scales between the upper edge of the gill opening to the caudal-fin base; horizontal scale rows above and below the lateral line are counted below the dorsal-fin origin and above the anal-fin origin respectively; circumpeduncular scales include the total number of transverse scale rows on both sides of the narrowest portion