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A NEW APOGONID FISH FROM QUEENSLAND

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WHEN I was in America in 1937, Carl L. Hubbs showed me in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology some fishes which had been collected in Australia by the late Frank Nelson Blanchard (1888-1937). Among them were five small Apogonidae from Kuranda, Queensland. These could not be identified and were kindly forwarded to me in Sydney for more detailed study. After carefully comparing them with many specimens in the Australian Museum and in the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney, as well as with descriptions in literature, I regard them as belonging to a new genus and species. The novelty is named in honor of our late mutual friend, Frank N. Blanchard, the well-known American herpetologist, with whom I had the pleasure of collecting specimens in Tasmania about ten years ago.

Kurandapogon, new genus

Orthotype, *Kurandapogon blanchardi*, new species.

A genus of small, dusky, fluviatile Apogonidae from tropical Queensland, with six dorsal spines, entire preopercular margins, and scales in more than thirty transverse series on the body. From their general characters, they enter the *Apogon*

* Contribution from the Australian Museum, Sydney.

(or "*Amia*") sections of some authors' keys, but they do not belong, in the strict sense, to the genus *Apogon* Lacépède,¹ the genotype of which, *Apogon ruber* Lacépède (= *Mullus imberbis* Linnaeus)² from Malta is a much larger, red, marine European species with considerably larger scales, longer maxillary, and differently formed head bones generally. I have noted nearly ninety generic names, some of them of doubtful validity, which have been applied to various Apogonidae in the broadest sense, but none of them is available for this new species.

***Kurandapogon blanchardi*, new species**

Blanchard's Perchlet

(Plate I)

Dorsal, VI—I, 10; anal, II, 9; pectoral, 12; ventral, I, 5; caudal, 15. Scale rows, 3—about 35—13.

The largest specimen, selected as holotype, has the following proportions: Head, 2.35 in standard length; depth of body, 2.8. Eye, 3 in head; interorbital, 4; snout, 4.2; maxillary, 2.

Other proportions or percentages of the five specimens can be calculated from Table I, which shows that there is very

TABLE I
DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETERS OF THE TYPE SPECIMENS OF
KURANDAPOGON BLANCHARDI

	1*	2	3	4	5
Head	9.0	9.0	7.35	7.2	6.7
Eye	3.0	2.95	2.7	2.6	2.7
Interorbital	2.25	2.65	2.0	1.9	2.0
Snout	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.3
Maxillary	4.5	4.2	3.6	3.2	3.0
Depth of body	7.5	7.8	6.2	6.5	6.4
Depth of caudal peduncle	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.2
Longest (second) dorsal spine	4.8	5.2	4.1	3.8	4.0
Pectoral fin	4.25	3.2	3.1	3.0
Standard length	21.2	21.7	18.1	18.0	17.8

* Holotype.

¹ *Histoire naturelle des poissons* (Paris, 1802), 3: 411.

² *Systema naturae*, 10th ed. (Holmiae, 1758), 300.

little heterogenic variation. The eye in the smallest specimen is relatively larger, as would be expected in a juvenile fish. The smallest paratype has the head nearly 2.7 and the depth of the body 2.7 in the standard length; the eye 2.48, the interorbital 3.3, the snout 5.1, and the maxillary 2.2 in the head. The fin formulae are constant, although there may be a little variation in scale counts, but, unfortunately, all the scales are not present in some specimens.

Head large, compressed, with upper profile weakly convex. Eyes large; orbit entire. Preorbital narrow. Nostrils large. Mouth moderately oblique; lower jaw the longer. Maxilla reaching beyond anterior half of eye, truncate, but not much broadened posteriorly. Mandibular ramus very gently ascending. Teeth finely villiform, in narrow dark strips on jaws and vomer, but apparently none on palatines. No canines or enlarged teeth. Tongue edentulous; its tip rather pointed. Preoperculum with its ridges and margins entire. Opercular spine obsolescent. Cheeks scaly. Sides of head crisscrossed by some rows of minute pores. There are a few large pores over the eyes, along the preoperculum, and toward the nape. Gill-rakers long; not numerous.

Size small, less than an inch in standard length. Body compressed, moderately elevated; the depth less than half the standard length. No silvery peritoneal tube over anal fin. Scales cycloid or at most only microscopically ciliated, deciduous, in about thirty-five transverse series on body, but not extending on fins. Lateral line complete, not very distinct. Vent a little in advance of anal fin. Caudal peduncle compressed and rather long, yet shorter than the head.

Dorsal fins separate; the second spine is the longest, but none of the spines or rays is produced. Ventrals almost reaching anal origin. Pectorals rounded. Caudal emarginate.

Coloration fairly uniform dull brown. No striking markings (bands, stripes, spots, ocelli, oblique cheek bars, or saddle on tail) anywhere, but in smaller specimens there is a tendency toward darker diffuse bandlike markings on the body.

The holotype, No. 120387, and two paratypes, No. 120388,

are deposited in the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology; two paratypes, No. IA 7532-33, are in the Australian Museum.

Locality.—“Kuranda [about twenty miles NW. from Cairns, North Queensland] June 1st to 4th 1928.” Frank N. Blanchard.

Station Fluviatile, in the Jardinean fluvifaunula of Australia.

PLATE I

Kurandapogon blanchardi, new genus and new species. Drawing, six times natural size, of holotype. Kuranda, North Queensland, Australia.



