

**Case Report of *Cynoglossus persicus*
(Persian Tonguefish)- A New Species Record of
Flat Fish (*Cynoglossidae*) from Iran Seacoast**

¹A. Kousha, ²F. Askarian, ³H.V. Ghate, ⁴H. Emadi and ⁵Gh. Wosoughi

¹Islamic Azad University, Ghaemshahr Branch, School of Fisheries, Iran

²Islamic Azad University, Savadkooh Branch, Department of Fisheries

³Department of Zoology, Modern College, University of Pune, India

⁴Islamic Azad University, Tehran Shomal Branch, Department of Fisheries, Iran

⁵Department of Veterinary Science, University of Tehran, Iran

Abstract: The authors describe and illustrate a new species of *Cynoglossus* from Iran seacoast: *Cynoglossus persicus* n. sp. (Persian tonguefish) the new species belongs to the flat fishes and is compared with *C. puncticeps*.

Key words: Taxonomy • New species • *Cynoglossidae* • Flat fish • Iran

INTRODUCTION

In the southeast coast of Iran, Chabahar coastline, which we had studied for some time we found some populations that, could not be attributed to any species known to date: it was therefore necessary to raise a new species that is described here in the present paper.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

One of us (first author) collected the examples on more than one occasion during some studies carried out in southeast Iran within the framework of the research project on Oman Sea Flat fishes. The fishes were kept in 70% alcohol [1]. All characteristics were used as standard manual of method in fish biology [2,3].

Taxonomic Accounts

Cynoglossidae Family: The handbook of fisheries statistics of Pakistan (1985) and FAO (1984) [4-7] reports some *Cynoglossus* species from that area but this species did not report in any handbook of Pakistan or FAO reports, in this fish scales on eyed side is cetenoid and blind side is cycloid (oval), number of Anal fins rays was equal to 112-119 and number of Dorsal fin rays was 95-96.

Distinctive characters of new species: body flat and elongate, with dorsal and anal fin joined to caudal fin. Eyed on left side of body with a narrow space between them, two lateral lines on both eyed side and blind side (different with *C. puncticeps* species) scales cycloid (oval) on blind side and cetenoid on eyed side of body. Number of rays on dorsal fin=115±4 and number of rays on caudal fin=95±2. Following table showing the biometrical of new species:

Affinity: *Cynoglossus persicus* n. sp. could be assigned to the *Cynoglossidae* family that in Iran's seacoast is also represented by one species *Cynoglossus puncticeps* was reported by Richardson, 1846[1,3,8,9].

The new species seems to be similar to *Cynoglossus puncticeps* (Richardson, 1846) [4] but some morphological differentiations are between these two species; first: distinct dark brown blotches are clearly different form and size in both fishes and second differentiation is; two lateral lines exist on eyed side and none on blind side in *C. puncticeps* but in this new species there are two lateral lines in both eyed and blind side. The distinct color pattern readily distinguishes *C. persicus* from *C. puncticeps*. The new species is, to date, valid only for Iranian seacoast

Table 1: Biometrical characteristics of new species in this study

T.L (mm)	S.L (mm)	H.L (mm)	B.D (mm)	E.D (mm)	T.W (mg)	L.L (eyed side)	L.L (blind side)
342±4	322±3	58±2	97±3	0.7±1	267.9±5	2	2



Fig. 1: *Cynoglossus persicus* a new species of Cynoglossidae family from Iran southeast seacoast

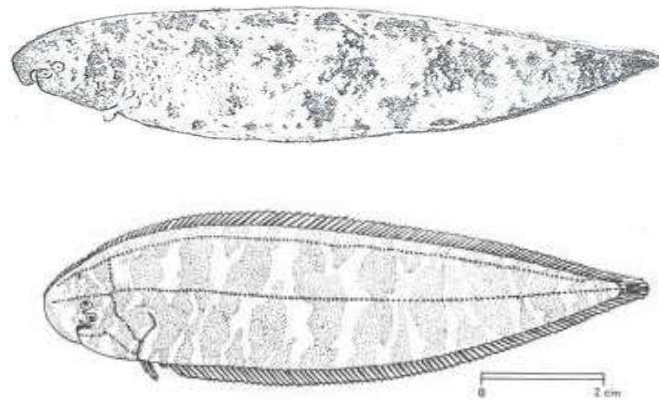


Fig. 2: The distinct color pattern readily distinguishes *C. persicus* (up) in comparison with *C. puncticeps* (Down)

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