

STATUS OF PARAPLAGUSIA NOTATA (DE VIS, 1883).

Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 43(2): 708. 1999:- The appropriate designation for *Plagusia* (= *Paraplagusia*) *notata* De Vis, 1883 is uncertain because of an apparently insoluble problem with 2 putative holotypes from Moreton Bay. The first, QMI107, was both registered and labelled as 'type' in 1911 by Ogilby, who was appointed Queensland Museum Curator of Fishes the following year. The second, AMSI379, is identified as the holotype of *Plagusia notata* by Menon (1979). He had the specimen examined (by Dr P. Whitehead) at the British Museum and considered it to be a junior synonym of *Paraplagusia bilineata*. Australian Museum records indicate that this specimen was obtained on exchange from the QM in 1886 but do not refer to its type status. The type status of these 2 specimens cannot be ascertained conclusively from the type description (De Vis, 1883) and was not resolved by Eschmeyer (1998) in his treatment of the species. De Vis is notorious for imprecision (Ingram, 1990) and this continues to account for confusion about the status of many of his nominal species. The 2 specimens are not conspecific. QMI107 is identifiable as *P. sinerama* Chapleau & Renaud, 1993. The specimen is damaged posteriorly, precluding accurate fin ray and vertebral counts, but has short unbranched labial papillae and 3 lateral lines on the ocular side. The combination of these characters distinguish *P. sinerama* from all other known species of the genus *Paraplagusia* (see Chapleau & Renaud, 1993). Although this suggests that *P. notata* may be a senior synonym of *P. sinerama*, De Vis' description of the colour pattern of *P. notata* as including 'black lines enclosing pale angular spots' is inconsistent with *P. sinerama* which is uniformly dark brown on the ocular side. If the original description is correct, it is doubtful that QMI107 is the holotype and it is probable that Ogilby mislabelled this specimen. AMSI379 cannot be located in the collections of the Australian Museum (M. McGrouther pers. comm., 1997). Menon's identification of it as *P. bilineata*, a species possessing pale spots on the ocular side, corresponds with De Vis' description of the colouration

of *P. notata*. It is therefore likely that *P. notata* is either a junior synonym of *P. bilineata* or an available name for an unidentified species of *Paraplagusia*. On this basis, QMI107 and seven other specimen lots in the Queensland Museum from Moreton Bay are identified as *P. sinerama*, a species previously recorded only from NW Australia. Johnson (1999) also records *P. bilineata* and an unidentified species of *Paraplagusia* from the type locality.

Acknowledgements

Dianne Bray and Mark McGrouther kindly assisted with checks of the Australian Museum Collection. Martin Gomon (Museum Victoria) provided helpful comments on the manuscript.

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Johnson, Jeffrey W. 1999. "Status of *Paraplagusia notata* (De Vis, 1883)." *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 43, 708–708.

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