

Typhlachirus lipophthalmus, a rare eye-less sole from Borneo (Teleostei: Soleidae)

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An example of the eye-less sole, *Typhlachirus lipophthalmus*, was collected from a tidal section of the Sadong River in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, in January 2018. It is apparently the second known record of this species since its description in 1882. A description based on selected meristic and morphometric data gathered from the specimen, supported by radiographs and photographs of it, as well as notes on its capture and habitat, are presented.

Introduction

The poorly-known eye-less soles of the genus *Typhlachirus* were recently revised by Evseenko & Bolshakov (2018). Three species are presently recognized: *Synaptura lipophthalma* Károli (1882: 176) described from Sarawak, Borneo; *Typhlachirus caecus* Hardenberg (1931b: 415) described from the Bagan Si Api Api at the mouth of Rokan River, Sumatra; and *Typhlachirus elongatus* Pellegrin & Chevey (1940: 155), described from the Mekong delta in Vietnam. The type species is *Typhlachirus caecus* Hardenberg (1931b: 415); but it first appeared as *Cryptops coeca* (new genus and species) in Hardenberg (1931a: 125). Believing that *Cryptops* was pre-occupied, Hardenberg (1931b) proposed a new genus-name *Typhlachirus*, and changed the combination to *Typhlachirus caecus*. However, a replacement was not necessary because both *Cryptops* Hardenberg 1931a

and *Cryptops coeca* Hardenberg 1931a are nomina nuda, and therefore unavailable names. Thereafter, the genus-name *Typhlachirus* Hardenberg 1931b and the species-name *Typhlachirus caecus* are not replacement names.

Synaptura lipophthalma was placed in the genus *Typhlachirus* by Chabanaud (1948) who illustrated it with lithographs and anatomical and osteological drawings, and regarded both *T. caecus* and *T. elongatus* as its junior synonyms. Subsequently, this name seemed to have been overlooked. In a compilation of fishes recorded from the South China Sea, which includes the entire coast of Sarawak, Munroe (2000: 645–646) recognized *T. elongatus* as a species of *Brachirus*, but did not list the occurrence of *T. lipophthalmus*. Later, Kottelat (2013: 464–465) listed only *T. caecus*, and also regarded *T. elongatus* as a species of *Brachirus*. Most likely, he had recognized *T. caecus* as distinct from *T. lipophthalmus*, but did

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