

BUMROUND PECHSATHID : TAXONOMY OF NEEDLEFISHES (PISCES : BELONIDAE AND HEMIRAMPHIDAE) IN THAI WATERS. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO.PROF. THOSAPORN WONGRATANA, Ph.D., 187 PP. ISBN 974-581-469-5

The present taxonomic work was based mainly on Thai materials newly collected during September 1988 to October 1989, and supplementing with former collections deposited in major local institutions. With the total number of 613 specimens, they comprised 22 species within 11 genera.

Three species, viz. Xenentodon cancila, Dermogenys pusillus and Hemiramphodon pogonognathus were collected from freshwater and brackishwater habitats. Sixteen species, viz. Strongylura strongylura, S. incisa, S. leiura, Tylosurus crocodilus, Zenarchopterus ectuntio, Z. buffonis, Z. dunckeri, Hemiramphus far, He. archipelagicus, Rhynchorhamphus naga, R. georgii, Hyporhamphus (Hyporhamphus) melanopterus, Hy. (Hy.) limbatus, Hy. (Reporhamphus) affinis, Hy. (R.) dussumieri and Hy. (R.) quoyi were from brackishwater and marine, and the rest, viz. Ablennes hians, T. acus, Euleptorhamphus viridis, were found only in the seas. S. incisa, T. acus, H. pogonognathus and E. viridis were newly recorded for Thailand.

The absence of specimens of Zenarchopterus gilli, Hyporhamphus (Hyporhamphus) unicuspis and Hy. (Reporhamphus) balinensis, which were previously recorded for Thailand, rendered the exclusion of their data from this study. While the Red Sea and Persian Gulf species of Hemiramphus marginatus, and Atlantic species of Hy. (Hy.) unifasciatus which were formerly noted for Thai waters are now described as He. archipelagicus and Hy. (Hy.) limbatus, respectively.

The illustrated keys are provided for the identification of families, genera and species. The selected data, for example, common names, synonymies, diagnoses, description, habitats, biology, fisheries, photographs of the fish species, including the frequency tables and graphs for species comparisons, and available references, are also included.