

การศึกษาทางอนุกรรมวิชานของปลาบ่อเป้าตามเดิม

Notes on *Tetraodon somphongsi* Klausewitz, 1957, a Puffer Fish from Thailand (Pisces, Tetraodontidae)

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ABSTRACT

A Red-eyed Puffer (*Tetraodon somphongsi* Klausewitz) is not commonly found fish. It was identified and given the specific name by Dr. von W. Klausewitz to honor the late Mr. Somphongs Lekaree, who had exported aquarium fishes from Thailand to Germany. The local name of this aquarium fish in Thai is "Pla Pak-pao Ta-dang". The diagnostic characters and the details of this species are given in this paper.

Tetraodon somphongsi Klausewitz, a freshwater puffer fish, was described by Klausewitz in 1957, as a new species found in Thailand (1). The species is exported to Germany as an aquarium fish because of their unique coloration. The description given by Dr. von W. Klausewitz came from four specimens: one is the type, and the others are paratypes. This study is concerned with live specimens and preserved specimens kept at Kasetsart University Museum of Fisheries. These specimens are 26.5 to 58.5 mm. in total length. The specific name was given to honor a Thai fish exporter: the late Mr. Somphongs Lekaree, who had exported these fishes to Germany. The common name of this species in Thai is "Pla Pakpao Ta-dang" or "Red-eyed puffer". They are not known to most Thai people because they are found only in a certain area of Nakorn Chaisri River, about 50 kilometers south of Bangkok.

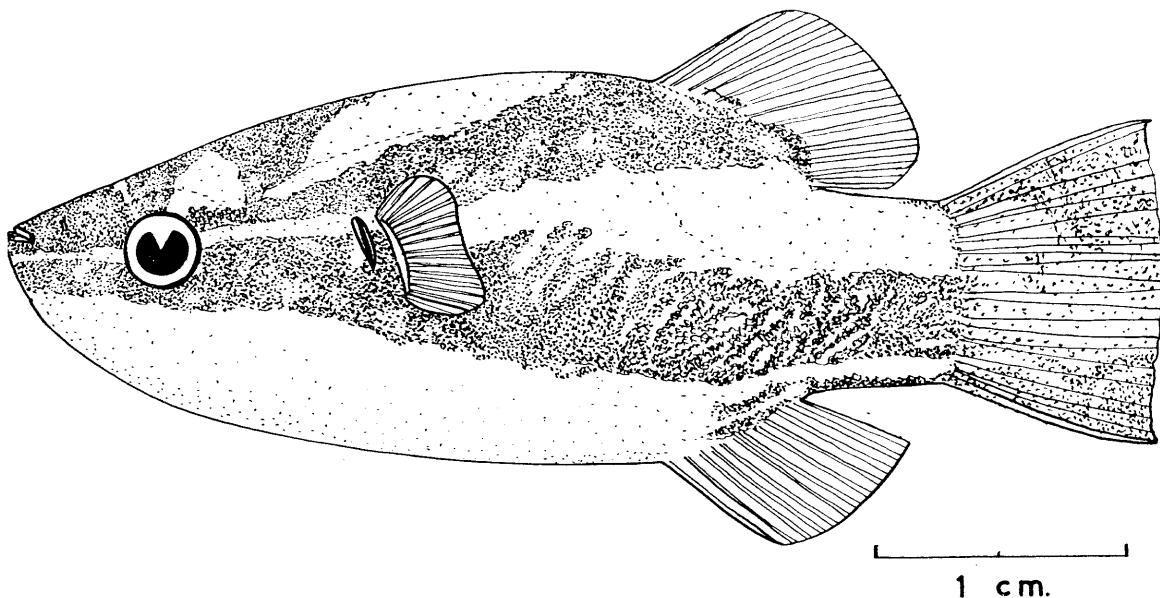
Description

D. 11-13; A. 10-11; P. 17; C. 12; depth 2.0-2.5 in standard length, 2.9-3.1 in total length; head 2.1-2.7 in standard length, 2.8-3.2 in total length; eye about 3.0-3.2 in head, in the middle between end of snout and gill opening. (A comparison between some characters of Klausewitz's

specimens and examined specimens is shown in Table I)

Body oval, compressed; small size. Dorsal profile more convex than ventral profile; the former starts from end of snout to origin of dorsal fin somewhat straight, and the latter from breast region to origin of anal fin more or less straight. Mouth slightly superior, oblique; gape of mouth about the same level of the middle part of eye. Nasal opening slightly more nearer to mouth than to eye, and on a short uniform tube. Lateral and ventral parts of body with numerous weak prickles, back with few very weak prickles, no prickles on posterior half of body. Origin of dorsal fin opposite to that of anal fin. Pectorals short, rounded. Caudal fin relatively large, covered with thick skin.

Color of live specimens, iris red, pupil colorless to light blue. The upper part of head above lower border of eye and upper part of body dark grey. The lower part of the former and belly dirty white or light grey. One narrow yellowish-olive stripe on interorbital space; two stripes of the same color on each side of head: one from nasal opening to about middle of the anterior border of eye, and another from posterior border



Tetraodon somphongsi Klausewitz

of eye to gill opening, the latter wider posteriorly. Two to three irregular yellowish-olive blotches on posterior part of head. A large trapezoid-like shape on nape. Another large and wide yellowish-olive band extending from pectoral fins to the area between back and upper caudal base. Dorsal and anal fins pale reddish pink, with minute black dots around the rim. Caudal fin deep dark grey with silvery hue, and its posterior rim with a narrow white stripe. Pectoral

fins hyaline. However, the coloration of the fish varied according to its surroundings and its behavior, and also to the intensity of light.

In preserved specimens the color of the iris turn to white or colorless, pupil dark. The yellowish stripes and blotches found in live specimens get darker, disappeared, or somewhat turn to light brown. Silvery hue on caudal fin disappeared and other fins hyaline.

Table 1 A comparison between some characters of Klausewitz's specimens and examined specimens.

	<i>Klausewitz's specimens</i>	<i>Examined specimens</i>
Dorsal rays	D. 13	D. 11-13
Anal rays	A. 11	A. 10-11
Pectoral rays	P. 17	P. 17
Caudal rays	C. 12	C. 12
Depth in standard length	2.5	2.0-2.5
Depth in total length	3.0	2.9-3.1
Head in standard length	2.6	2.1-2.7
Head in total length	3.2	2.9-3.2
Eye in head	3.0	3.0-3.2

Literature Cited

1. KLAUSEWITZ, VON W. 1957. *Tetraodon somphongsi* n. sp., ein weiterer neuer Kugelfisch aus Thailand (Pisces, Tetraodontidae). Senck. Biol. 38:205-208.