

GADIFORMES – cods and allies

Many of the gadiform fishes inhabit in marine waters, including the deep-seas, and only a few is found in fresh- and/or brackish waters. Fishes of the Bregmacerotidae, known as codlets, are not the exception; they are typically found in coastal and oceanic

waters, and rarely enter estuaries (Iwamoto, 1999). The family comprises a single genus *Bregmaceros*. During our field surveys, at least a single species of *Bregmaceros* was collected from the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.



Bregmaceros mccllellandi Thompson, 1840

Family: Bregmacerotidae (FC: 201)

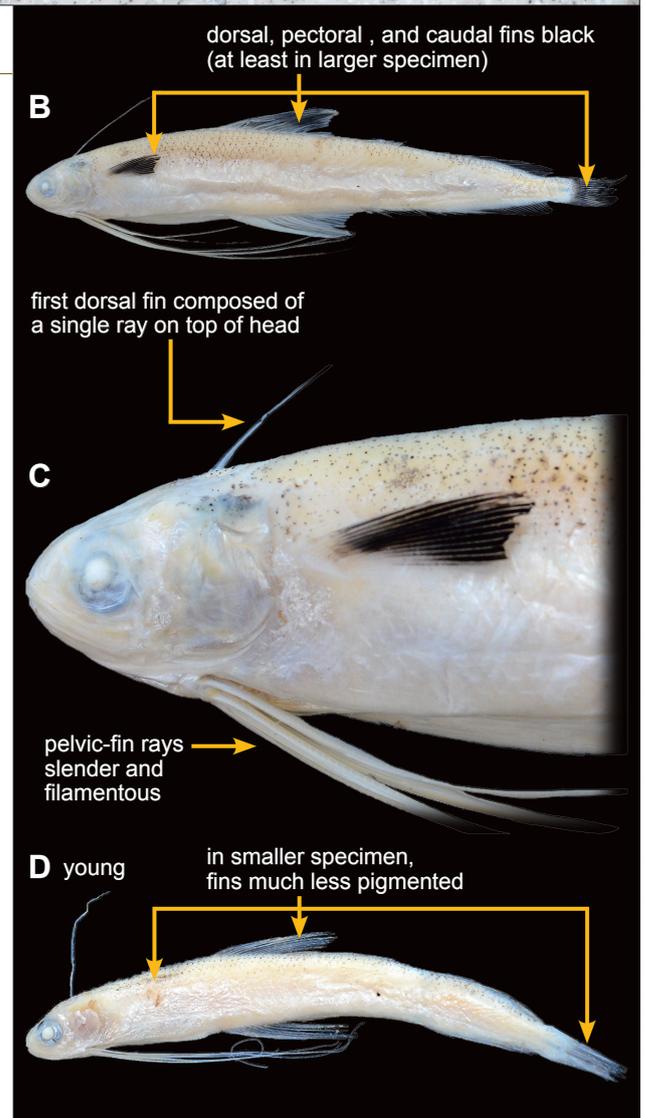
Size: 8.5 cm SL (Torii *et al.*, 2003: 130).

Distribution: Mekong Basin in Vietnam; Indo-West Pacific.

Notes: A relatively large-size species of codlets, found in coastal marine waters; it is also known to enter into inland waters (*e.g.*, Kottelat, 2013c). The photographed specimens shown here were collected from a river around Cù Lao Dung Island of the Mekong Delta in Sóc Trăng, Vietnam.

Iwamoto (1999) listed 7 species of *Bregmaceros* found in Western Central Pacific: *B. japonicus*, *B. lanceolatus*, *B. mccllellandi*, *B. nectabanus*, *B. neonectabanus*, *B. pescadorus*, and *B. rarisquamosus*. Subsequently Torii *et al.* (2004), who recognized 17 described species in the genus in the world, added a new species *B. pseudolanceolatus* from Indo-West Pacific (East China Sea to Bay of Bengal). Of these, only a single species *B. mccllellandi* was listed by Kottelat (2013c) in his catalog of the fishes of the inland waters of Southeast Asia; Rainboth *et al.* (2012) showed 4 species (*B. japonicus*, *B. mccllellandi*, *B. pseudolanceolatus*, and *B. rarisquamosus*) in the book of the fishes of their "Greater Mekong Ecosystem," where does not only include The Mekong Basin, but also the entire region directly affected by the Mekong (*e.g.*, adjacent areas of South China Sea).

Bregmaceros mccllellandi is one of the species of the genus with black colored dorsal, pectoral, and caudal fins, and differs from the other similar-colored congeners, *B. japonicus* and *B. lanceolatus*, by having higher counts of pectoral and caudal-fin rays and vertebrae (*vs.* fewer in *B. japonicus*) or slightly forked caudal fin (*vs.* pointed or rounded in *B. lanceolatus*) (Torii *et al.*, 2003, 2004). Note that, as shown by Torii *et al.* (2003), the fins are less pigmented or unpigmented in smaller specimens in *B. mccllellandi* (see photo D, 4.0 cm SL).



A–C) An alcohol fixed/preserved specimen, one of CTU-P specimen (photo: KS); D) a alcohol-fixed/preserved specimen, one of CTU-P specimen (photo: KS)