

**First Record of the Labrid Fish
Halichoeres richmondi
from Japan**

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The wrasse *Halichoeres richmondi* was originally described and figured by Fowler and Bean (1928) on the basis of three specimens from the Philippines and Celebes. Since then no additional specimens had been reported until Randall (1986) recorded the species from Java, Ambon (eastern Indonesia), Truk, Ponape, and Kwajalein (Marshall Islands) and presented the diagnosis.

During an ecological field survey of coral reef fishes at Iriomote Island, one of the Ryukyu Islands of Japan, in 1986, I collected a male specimen which provides the first record of *H. richmondi* from the Japanese Archipelago.

Methods for counts and measurements follow Randall (1980) and Randall and Smith (1982). Color description is from color photographs of the fresh specimen.

Halichoeres richmondi Fowler et Bean, 1928
(New Japanese name: Goshiki-kyusen)
(Fig. 1)

Halichoeres richmondi Fowler and Bean, 1928: 263, pl. 24 (type locality: Inamucan Bay, Mindanao); Randall, 1986: 224, fig. 62.

Material examined. FUMT-P (Department of Fisheries, University Museum, University of Tokyo) 10836, 96.5 mm in standard length (SL), male, Amitori Bay (24°20'N, 123°42'E), Iriomote Island, Ryukyu Islands, at a depth of 2 m on a dead coral reef, Oct. 2, 1986.

Description. Counts and proportional measurements are shown in Table 1.

Body moderately elongate, compressed. Snout somewhat pointed, longer than interorbital space which is convex. Mouth small, terminal, somewhat oblique; maxillary not reaching below anterior nostril; lips fleshy, the lower with a downward-projecting flap on the side. Front of jaws with a pair of large, recurved canine teeth followed by a second slightly recurved pair about three-fourths as long; sides of jaws with conical

teeth, progressively shorter posteriorly; a large canine tooth posteriorly on upper jaw at corner of mouth. Nostrils small, close-set in front of eye; the anterior shortly tubulated; the posterior with a prolonged flap anteriorly. Margins of opercular bones entire. Gill membranes broadly attached to isthmus.

Origin of dorsal fin above posterior tip of opercular margin; the spines gradually increasing in length posteriorly; soft dorsal fin pointed posteriorly; the 11th ray longest. Origin of anal fin opposite base of 1st dorsal soft ray; the 1st spine slender and short; the 3rd spine longest; the 11th ray longest, subequal to the longest dorsal ray. Pectoral fin rounded, reaching below base of 8th dorsal spine. Pelvic fin long, reaching anal fin

Table 1. Counts and proportional measurements of *Halichoeres richmondi* from Iriomote Island, Japan.

Character	FUMT-P 10836
Standard length (mm)	96.5
Counts	
Dorsal fin rays	IX, 12
Anal fin rays	III, 12
Pectoral fin rays	14
Pelvic fin rays	I, 5
Pored lateral-line scales	27
Transverse scales (above/below)	4/11
Gill rakers	24
Proportional measurements (%SL)	
Head length	33.2
Body depth	31.0
Snout length	8.1
Eye diameter	4.9
Interorbital space	7.4
Upper jaw length	8.7
Caudal peduncle length	12.3
Caudal peduncle depth	16.2
Predorsal length	35.0
Preanal length	56.0
Prepectoral length	31.1
Prepelvic length	34.2
Length of dorsal fin base	61.5
Length of anal fin base	36.3
Length of pectoral fin	20.5
Length of pelvic fin	19.7
Length of longest dorsal spine	8.2
Length of longest dorsal ray	12.0
Length of 3rd anal spine	6.2
Length of longest anal ray	11.4

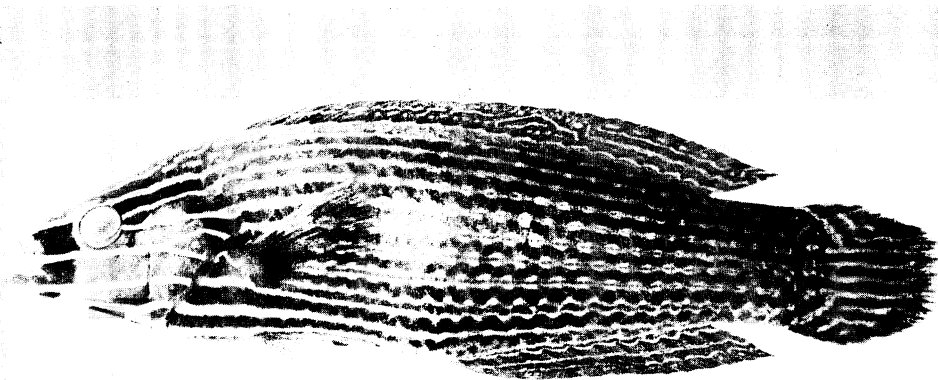


Fig. 1. *Halichoeres richmondi* from Iriomote Island, Japan, FUMT-P 10836, male, 96.5 mm SL.

origin when depressed. Caudal fin rounded.

Body scales cycloid. Head naked except for small scales at nape. All fins scaleless except for caudal fin, covered with scales near its base. Lateral line completed, bending down abruptly beneath base of 9th dorsal ray.

Color in life: See Fig. 1. Body greenish yellow except for breast which is brownish yellow; each row of scales with a narrow blue median stripe, each scale with a brown center. Head greenish yellow above and brownish yellow below; 7 narrow, longitudinal bright blue stripes on head side (one through lower edge of eye bifurcating on opercle), a similar stripe on mid-dorsal part of head; lips and lower part of gill membrane bright blue. Dorsal and anal fins brown, with narrow translucent margins; each fin with about 2 narrow, longitudinal blue lines, partly broken and dotted. Caudal fin brown, with narrow, longitudinal blue lines and with translucent margin. Paired fins yellow basally.

Color in alcohol: Body pale green, with narrow, longitudinal dark stripes. Head and breast dark; longitudinal stripes on head obscure. Vertical fins dark, with translucent margins. Paired fins pale green basally.

Remarks. Most characters of the present specimen agree well with the original description and figure of *Halichoeres richmondi* except for the gill-raker count: the present specimen has 24 instead of 15 gill rakers. I presumed that this apparent discrepancy in the count arises from different methods of counting, because all rudiments are

included in my count. However, I was unable to ascertain whether this is a correct assumption. To my request for reexamination of the gill-raker counts for the type specimens deposited in the U. S. National Museum of Natural History, Ray Carthy informed me that counting is impossible because the stiffening opercle would be damaged by distention. Randall (1986) described 23 to 26 gill rakers in the diagnosis of this species, indicating that the count for the present specimen is within its range. I thus identify the present specimen as *H. richmondi*.

The present specimen occurred solitarily on a shallow inner coral reef consisting mainly of dead staghorn coral *Acropora* spp. at Amitori Bay, where hermatypic corals were intensely infested with the coral-feeding starfish *Acanthaster planci* between 1981 and 1982 (see Sano et al., 1987). During the field survey I did not see any other individual of *H. richmondi* at the bay and adjacent areas.

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日本初記録のベラ科魚類ゴシキキュウセン (新称)

佐野光彦

西表島網取湾の水深約 2 m の死滅枝状サンゴ礁からベラ科魚類の一種、ゴシキキュウセン (新称) *Halichoeres richmondi* の雄を 1 個体採集した。本種の雄の主な特徴は、細い青色縦線を頭側に約 7 本、体側に約 12 本持つことである。本種はフィリピン、セレベス、ジャワ、アンボン (東インドネシア)、トラック、ボナペ、クワジャリン (マーシャル諸島) から報告されていたが、日本からはまだ知られていなかった。

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