



Short Communication

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**VALIDATION OF *PRISTOLEPIS PENTACANTHA* PLAMOOTTIL, 2014**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Pristolepis pentacantha* Plamoottil was described from Kerala, India; but it did not satisfy one of the requirements of Code of ICZN; now it is rectified.

**Keywords:** Validation, New species, *Pristolepis pentacantha*, National museum.

Plamoottil (2014) recently described *Pristolepis pentacantha*, a new percoid fish from Kabani River at Wayanad in Kerala, India. Even though this article is published in the print issue of a Journal (*International Journal of Scientific Research*), it does not satisfy one requirement of a new description article; according to Art. 16.4.2 of the Code of International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, the original publication must include "a statement of intent that they will be (or are) deposited in a collection and a statement indicating the name and location of that collection". The first part is fulfilled in the original description of *Pristolepis pentacantha*, but not the second part. The species is new and the detailed description and differential diagnosis of it from the congeners have been given in Plamoottil (2014). The purpose of this note is to validate the species name by including the full name of the Museum where the new species was deposited. As the museum where the type specimens of new species were deposited (STC/DOZ: St. Thomas College, Department of Zoology) was not a recognized museum, it is now transferred to a recognized national museum; type specimens of *Pristolepis pentacantha* are now deposited in the freshwater fish museum of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

***Pristolepis pentacantha*, new species**

(Figure 1)

*Pristolepis pentacantha*, Plamoottil, M., 2014

**Holotype:** ZSI FF 5191, 94.5 mm SL, India: Kerala, Bavali, Kabani River, Wayanad, coll. Mathews Plamoottil, 10 January 2012.

**Paratype:** ZSI FF 5192, 70.0 mm SL India: Kerala, 11 January 2012, same data as holotype.

**Diagnosis:** *Pristolepis pentacantha* is distinguished from its congeners in possessing the following characters: dorsal fin with 15- 16 spines and 11 soft rays, anal fin with 5 spines and 7 soft rays; lateral line scales 22/7+ 2- 3; eyes are closely set, inter orbital width 20.9- 22.8 % HL, width of gape of mouth lesser, 27.0- 29.4 % HL; pre opercle serrated with 5-6 serrae and pre orbital without serration.

**Distribution:** Currently known to occur only at Wayanad, Kerala, India.

**CONCLUSION**

*Pristolepis pentacantha* is a new percoid fish from Kabani River at Wayanad in Kerala, India. It is now transferred to a recognized national museum of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) at Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

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**Figure 1.** Fresh specimen of *Pristolepis pentacantha*, Holotype, ZSI FF 5191, 94.5 mm SL, India: Kerala, Kabani River at Bavali, Wayanad.

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#### REFERENCE

Plamoottil, M., 2014. *Pristolepis pentacantha*, a new fish species (Perciformes: Pristolepidae) from Kerala, India. *Int. J. Sci. Res.*, 3(5): 552-554.