

# Two new records of fishes from the Red Sea

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**Abstract.** Two species of bony fishes, which had not previously been reported from the Red Sea, are recorded from Aqaba, Jordan, on the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. *Foa brachygramma* (family Apogonidae) occurs throughout the Indo-Pacific from East Africa to the Hawaiian Islands. *Caranx heberi* (family Carangidae) was previously known from many coastal areas of the Indo-West Pacific. For each of the two new records a set of diagnostic characters is given, based on the specimens from Aqaba.

**Kurzfassung:** Zwei Arten von Knochenfischen, die aus dem Roten Meer bisher nicht bekannt waren, werden aus Aqaba, Jordanien, am nördlichen Zipfel des Golfes von Aqaba gemeldet. *Foa brachygramma* (Fam. Apogonidae) kommt im gesamten Indo-Pazifik von Ostafrika bis Hawaii vor. *Caranx heberi* (Fam. Carangidae) war zuvor aus vielen Küstengebieten des Indischen Ozeans und des westlichen Pazifik bekannt. Für jede dieser beiden Arten werden, beruhend auf den Exemplaren aus Aqaba, diagnostische Merkmale angegeben.

**Key words.** *Caranx*, *Foa*, Osteichthyes, Middle East, Gulf of Aqaba.

## Introduction

The Red Sea ichthyofauna is comparatively well documented. In their checklist, GOREN & DOR (1994) listed 1248 fish species from this north-western branch of the tropical Indian Ocean. Since then, many more species have been reported (e.g. RANDALL 1994). With more than 1300 species on record, the Red Sea has the highest fish species richness of any enclosed or semi-enclosed water body in the world.

Fish diversity is also remarkably high in the Gulf of Aqaba, a semi-enclosed, narrow and deep northern extension of the Red Sea. In 1993, the Marine Science Station in Aqaba, Jordan, started compiling an inventory of the fish fauna of the Gulf of Aqaba (KHALAF & DISI 1997). As a result of this study, KHALAF (in prep.) recorded more than 500 species from the Gulf of Aqaba. Several fish species, which had previously been known from various parts of the Indo-Pacific, but not from the Red Sea, have been recorded from the Jordanian sector at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba (e.g. KRUPP & PAULUS 1991, KHALAF et al. 1996).

The purpose of the present note is to introduce two additional new records from the Red Sea, and to provide details of the specimens on which the new records are based.

**Abbreviations:** ad.: adult; BD: body depth; FL: fork length; HL: head length; MSSA: Marine Science Station Aqaba, Jordan; sad.: sub-adult; SL: standard length; SMF: Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt, Germany; TL: total length. Rare meristic counts are given between parentheses.