

NEW RECORDS OF REEF FISH *Pristiapogon abrogramma* Fraser & Lachner, 1985 FROM SOUTH ANDAMAN

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The continuous biodiversity research by various ichthyologists Rao, *et al.*, (2000), Rajan, *et al.* (2013), Kamla Devi, *et al.* (2015) revealed the presence of high diversity of ichthyofauna in Andaman and Nicobar islands. Undersea survey was carried out by SCUBA diving in January 2014 to study the coral reef Ichthyofauna around Rutland Island (Lat 11° 30. 570' N, Long 092° 38. 595' E) in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, South Andaman at a maximum depth of 12-15 meters.

A total of 33 species of fin fishes belonging to 24 genera 14 families and 3 orders were identified by

underwater photographs. Among these, one species is new distributional records of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The descriptions of these fish species belonging to family Apogonidae and classified under the order Perciformes are given here.

Systematic Account:

Order: Perciformes

Family: Apogonidae

Genus *Pristiapogon*

Species *Pristiapogon abrogramma*
(Fraser & Lachner, 1985) (Fig.1)



Fig.1. Underwater photograph of *Pristiapogon abrogramma* form Rutland Island, South Andaman A. *Pristiapogon abrogramma*, B. Black thin Stripe near caudal peduncle, C. Wide black stripe passing through eye, D. Caudal peduncle without black spot.

Description

Dorsal rays VII, +1, 9; anal rays II, 8; Pectoral rays 12-14 (Usually- 13), Lateral – Line scales 23-25. Body light pinkish with dark stripe extending from tip of snout to mid-base of caudal fin, The dark stripe widest behind eye, its width gradually narrowing to a thin streak on mid – Caudal peduncle. Pectoral and pelvic fins pale and other fins light dusky. No black spot at caudal fin base. Attain 10 cm.

Ecology: Found solitary or in loose groups near coral heads and ledges of lagoon and seaward reefs in 5 -15 meters depth.

Distribution: Indo-Pacific, Western Indian Ocean.

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