

***Melamphaes brachysomus*, A NEW SPECIES OF BIGSCALE (MELAMPHAIDAE)
FROM THE ANDAMAN SEA**

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ABSTRACT: A new species of melamphaid, *Melamphaes brachysomus* sp. nov. is described based on a single specimen (55.4 mm in standard length) collected from the Andaman Sea off southern Thailand at depths of 651–655 m. The new species is distinguishable from 37 known congeners by the following combination of characters: 16 dorsal-fin soft rays; 8 anal-fin soft rays; 3–4 upper and 13 lower-gill rakers; 8–11 filaments on the pseudobranch; 12 abdominal and 16 caudal vertebrae; body depth 30.7% of standard length; head length 42.8% of standard length; eye diameter greater than suborbital width; pelvic-fin origin slightly anterior to vertical through the posterior end of the pectoral-fin base; anal-fin origin under the base of the last dorsal-fin ray; widely spaced circuli on the posterior field of body scales; and some body scales with a shallow notch on the posterior margin.

Keywords: description, deep sea, Thailand, BIOSHELF, Beryciformes, Stephanoberyciformes.
