

**CEPHALOPHOLIS POLYSPILA, A NEW SPECIES OF GROUPEL  
(PERCIFORMES: SERRANIDAE: EPINEPHELINAE)  
FROM SOUTHWESTERN THAILAND AND SUMATRA**

By John E. Randall<sup>1</sup> and Ukkrit Satapoomin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2704, USA

<sup>2</sup>Phuket Marine Biological Center, P.O. Box 60, Phuket 83000, Thailand

**ABSTRACT**

*Cephalopholis polyspila* is described as a new species of serranid fish of the subfamily Epinephelinae from Sumatra and the Andaman Sea, off southwestern Thailand. It is similar to *C. microprion* (Bleeker), differing in having small blue spots on the head, body, and fins instead of just the head and thorax; in having 16 or 17 (more often 17) instead of 15 or 16 (more often 16) pectoral rays; in having small scales dorsally on the snout extending anterior to the nostrils (not present in *C. microprion*), a more elongate body on average, shorter pectoral fins, and in attaining larger size (188 mm SL, compared to 145 mm SL for *C. microprion*). It has also been confused with the blue-spotted *C. cyanostigma* (Valenciennes), differing in life color, in usually having 15 soft dorsal rays (strongly modal 16 rays in *cyanostigma*), and in its smaller size (*cyanostigma* to at least 234 mm SL).