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***Triso*, a New Generic Name for the Serranid Fish Previously Known
as *Trisotropis dermopterus*, with Comments on its Relationships**

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Triso, a New Generic Name for the Serranid Fish Previously Known as *Trisotropis dermopteris*, with Comments on its Relationships

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Abstract The generic name *Triso* is proposed for the epinephelin fish recent authors have identified as *Trisotropis dermopteris* (Temminck et Schlegel). *Trisotropis* Gill is a junior synonym of *Mycteroperca* Gill. *Triso* is distinctive in its short head, broad interorbital, foreshortened neurocranium, anteriorly inclined parasphenoid, high and laterally oriented frontoparietal crests, high dorsal fin-ray counts, and pouch-like esophageal swellings. *Altiserranus woorei* Whitley from New South Wales is placed in the synonymy of *T. dermopteris*. *Altiserranus* Whitley, type species *Epinephelus multinotatus* (Peters), is synonymized with *Epinephelus* Bloch. *T. dermopteris* occurs in the Northern Hemisphere off Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China, and in the Southern Hemisphere off eastern and western Australia; thus it is antitropical in distribution. Available evidence indicates that *Triso* may be most closely related to the New World genus *Paranthias* Guichenot.

Temminck and Schlegel (1842–1850: 10) described *Serranus dermopteris* from one adult 7½ pouces (203 mm) in length and two juveniles from the vicinity of Nagasaki, Japan. It was not without hesitation that they regarded it as one of the “mérours” (=groupers). They noted that it had the principal epinephelin characters but was unusual in such features as its small head, very small scales, and long dorsal fin of uniform height.

Günther (1859: 154) maintained the species in *Serranus*, referring to it as, “A somewhat aberrant species.” Steindachner (1892: 359, pl. 2, fig. 1) also classified it in *Serranus*. Boulenger (1895: 269), however, shifted the species to the genus *Epinephelus* Bloch and extended its range to the coast of China.

Surprisingly, Jordan and Richardson (1910: 462, fig. 14) placed *dermopteris* in the genus *Trisotropis* Gill (1865), the type species of which is *Johnius guttatus* Schneider = *Mycteroperca venenosa* (Linnaeus), and further in the subgenus *Archoperca* Jordan et Evermann (1896), type species *Mycteroperca boulengeri* Jordan et Starks. They have been followed in this generic placement by other authors such as Jordan, Tanaka and Snyder (1913: 158, fig. 116), Schmidt (1931: 57), Honma (1952: 145), Mori (1952: 87), Katayama (1960: 10, pl. 66), Chan (1968: 19, pl. 2), Lindberg and Krasnyukova (1969: 106, fig. 156), Burgess and Axelrod (1974: 1251, fig. 246), Chang, Shao and Lee (1979: 80), Shen (1984: 41, fig. 289–29),

Katayama in Masuda et al. (1984: 132, pl. 118 D), and Chu (1985: 24, fig. 361).

Unaware of *Trisotropis dermopteris*, Whitley (1951: 396, fig. 5) described this species as *Altiserranus woorei* from one specimen taken off Laurieton, New South Wales, Australia. Whitley (1947: 150) had previously erected the genus *Altiserranus*, type species *Serranus jayakari* Boulenger (= *Epinephelus multinotatus* (Peters)), according to Randall, 1987). *Altiserranus* is here placed in the synonymy of *Epinephelus*.

Norman (1957: 236) correctly synonymized *Trisotropis* and *Archoperca* with *Mycteroperca* Gill (1862). As noted by Smith (1971: 172) and Johnson (1983: 784), *dermopteris* does not belong in *Mycteroperca* or any currently named genus of the tribe Epinephelini. It is the sole representative of a new genus which we here name *Triso*. A diagnosis of this genus, a redescription of the species, and a discussion of the relationship of the genus within the tribe are provided.

We have examined specimens of *Triso dermopteris* in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AMS); Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu (BPBM); California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco (CAS); Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna (NMW); Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QM); U. S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. (USNM); Western Australian Museum, Perth (WAM); and Department of Zoology, University Museum, University of To-

