



Two new wobbegong sharks, *Orectolobus floridus* sp. nov. and *O. parvimaclatus* sp. nov. (Orectolobiformes: Orectolobidae), from southwestern Australia

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Abstract

Two new *Orectolobus* species, collected from the continental shelf off southwestern Australia as bycatch of a regional shark fishery, are described and figured. *Orectolobus floridus* sp. nov., which has a striking colour pattern of yellowish brown bands, blotches, spots and reticulations, occurs between Geraldton and Augusta at depths of 42–85 m. *Orectolobus parvimaclatus* sp. nov., another small, colourful wobbegong shark, which is sympatric with *O. floridus* and three other congeners, has been confused with a larger, more widespread wobbegong, *O. maculatus*. *Orectolobus parvimaclatus* occurs between Green Head and Mandurah at depths of 9–108 m. The new species differ from other *Orectolobus* species and each other by a combination of colour, morphology, body measurements and meristics.

Key words: *Orectolobus floridus*, *Orectolobus parvimaclatus*, new species, Orectolobiformes, wobbegong sharks, Western Australia

Introduction

Three genera and 8 valid nominal species of wobbegong sharks (F. Orectolobidae) are known to occur in the Indo–Pacific (Last *et al.*, 2006; Huvneers, 2006). Of these, 6 species *Eucrossorhinus dasyopogon* (Bleeker, 1867), *Orectolobus halei* Whitley, 1940, *O. hutchinsi* Last, Chidlow and Compagno, 2006, *O. maculatus* (Bonnaterre, 1788), *O. wardi* Whitley, 1939, and *Sutorectus tentaculatus* (Peters, 1864), occur off Western Australia. However, the importance of the continental shelf off Western Australia as a centre of endemism for wobbegongs has been strengthened recently by the discovery of two additional, narrow-ranging species belonging to the genus *Orectolobus*. The new wobbegongs are formally described below and compared to other nominal members of the genus.

Materials and methods

Terminology for external structures and abbreviations, and methodology for measurements, follows the widely used scheme proposed by Compagno (1984) with some modifications initiated by Last *et al.*, 2006. Measurements were direct (taken from point to point) unless otherwise specified: preanal length (PRN) was taken almost transversely from the middle of the snout tip to the junction of the nostril and nasal barbel; inter-eye (INE) taken rather than interorbital distance (INO); mouth width (MOW) taken as the width across the jaws to their outer lateral angles; ventral caudal margin was not subdivided into highly subjective measurements of the preventral caudal (CPV) and lower postventral (CPL) margins.