

## ***Pseudoplesiops wassi*, a new species of dottyback fish (Teleostei: Pseudochromidae: Pseudoplesiopinae) from the West Pacific**

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### **Abstract**

*Pseudoplesiops wassi* is described from 34 specimens, 17.7–28.8 mm SL, from throughout the West Pacific. It is closely related to *P. collare* from Indonesia, with which it shares 14 precaudal vertebrae (more than any other congener). It is distinguished from *P. collare* and all other congeners in having the following combination of characters: dorsal-fin rays I,27–29, usually I,28; pelvic-fin rays I,3; scales in lateral series 32–39, usually 33–36; and circumpeduncular scales 16.

**Keywords:** Pseudochromidae, Pseudoplesiopinae, *Pseudoplesiops wassi* new species, taxonomy

### **Introduction**

Fishes of the Indo-Pacific subfamily Pseudoplesiopinae are distinguished from other pseudochromids in having a single tubed scale at the gill opening, rather than a series of tubed scales. Five genera are recognised in the subfamily. *Pseudoplesiops* Bleeker is diagnosed by a single synapomorphy - medial laminae of the pelvic bones expanded dorsally - and the following combination of external characters: scales in lateral series 26–42; lower lip complete (uninterrupted at symphysis); and preopercular pores usually 7 (rarely 6 or 8), with a pore present at the upper terminus of the preopercle (Gill & Edwards, 1999). The genus is mostly confined to the eastern Indian and Pacific Oceans, though two recently described species occur in the Maldive Islands, central Indian Ocean (Gill & Edwards, 2002). As part of an ongoing revision of the genus, we herein describe a new species from the West Pacific in order to make its name available for a forthcoming guide to South Pacific fishes (Randall, in press).