

## ***Parioglossus galzini*, a new species of ptereleotrid dartfish from Rapa Island (Teleostei: Gobioidae: Ptereleotridae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of dart fish, *Parioglossus galzini* sp. nov., is described based on specimens collected in Haurei Bay, Rapa Island (French Polynesia). It is distinguished from all other described species of *Parioglossus* as follows: dark lateral body stripe absent, 100 or more scales in longitudinal series from above pectoral-fin base to base of caudal fin, pectoral-fin rays 19–21, membrane of first dorsal fin attached to second dorsal fin in males and females, mature males with dorsal-fin spines 3–5 filamentous and about equal in length, fresh males with narrow yellow stripe running dorsolaterally along body from head to caudal fin.

**Key words:** Gobioidae, Ptereleotridae, *Parioglossus galzini*, Rapa Island, French Polynesia

### **Introduction**

The first expedition of a comprehensive survey of the marine biodiversity of the fauna and flora of French Polynesia was conducted at Rapa Island (Fig. 1), Austral Archipelago, in 2002, by an International group of scientists working with the French Polynesian Government. The scientific team included scientists from Fiji, France, Italy, and the United States. The goal of the initial survey, which began in late October and ended in early December 2002, was to study the biodiversity of algae, corals, fishes and mollusks.

Prior to 1971, there were a few scattered reports of fish species from Rapa: *Anguilla obscura* by Schmidt (1925), *Epinephelus merra* by Schultz (1945), *Phaethonichthys tuberculatus* by Nichols (1923), and, in 1970, a limited collection made by C.L. Smith included 85 species that were listed in Randall (1978). In 1971, Randall spent about a month collecting fishes at Rapa and published the first list (Randall, 1978), which included 220 species. Randall, Smith and Feinberg (1990) subsequently published a combined list