Zootaxa 1326: 37–44 (2006)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

1326

Hypocreadium toombo n. sp. (Digenea: Lepocreadiidae) in the yellow-spotted triggerfish *Pseudobalistes fuscus* (Perciformes: Balistidae) and additional lepocreadiids parasitizing fishes from the waters off New Caledonia

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Abstract

Hypocreadium toombo **n. sp.** is described from the balistid *Pseudobalistes fuscus* from the waters off New Caledonia. It is distinguished by a series of characters shared by no other *Hypocreadium* species. The specimens are always slightly longer than wide, have a distinct anterior notch, have the vitelline fields confluent or nearly so in the forebody and have the terminal ends of the caeca pointing anteriorly. Other lepocreadiid species also recorded from New Caledonian waters are *Lobatocreadium exiguum* from *P. fuscus*, *Intusatrium robustum* from *Bodianus perditio* and *B. loxozonus*, *Postlepidapedon secundum* from *Choerodon graphicus* and *Lepidapedoides angustus* from *Epinephelus fasciatus.*

Key words: Digenea, Lepocreadiidae, *Hypocreadium toombo* **n. sp.**, Balistidae, *Pseudobalistes fuscus*, *Lobatocreadium exiguum*, *Intusatrium robustum*, *Bodianus perditio*, *Bodianus loxozonus*, *Postlepidapedon secundum*, *Choerodon graphicus*, *Lepidapedoides angustus*, *Epinephelus fasciatus*, New Caledonia

Introduction

In their review of *Hypocreadium* Ozaki, Bray & Cribb (1996) summarised members as being 'Broadly oval to rounded worms, with a weakly lobed or entire ovary, and with the dorsal excretory pore at the level of the caecal ends or more anterior, nearly always in Tetraodontiformes'. They could have added that the worms are highly flattened, appearing as narrow discs which form attractive wholemount preparations. We have discovered a

Accepted by N. Dronen: 5 Sept. 2006; published: 2 Oct. 2006