



## 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.