



## A shallow water population of *Pronotogrammus martinicensis* (Guichenot, 1868) (Teleostei: Serranidae: Anthiinae) from South-western Atlantic, Brazil

ALFREDO CARVALHO-FILHO<sup>1,4</sup>, CARLOS E. L.FERREIRA<sup>2</sup> & MATTHEW CRAIG<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fish Biz Ltd, R. D. Maria Garcez, 39, Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP, Brazil, 05424-070

<sup>2</sup>Lab. de Ecologia e Conservação de Ambientes Recifais, Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) Departamento de Biologia Marinha. C.P. 100644, Niterói-RJ, Brazil, 24001-970

<sup>3</sup>Department of Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, P.O. 9000, Mayagüez, PR 00683

<sup>4</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: [alfie@telnet.com.br](mailto:alfie@telnet.com.br)

### Abstract

A population of *Pronotogrammus martinicensis* (Guichenot, 1868) is described and recognized as a unique shallow-water variation of the species from the Brazilian South-Eastern coast, based on genetic, morphologic and ecological data. It is distinguished from the deep water population by its smaller eye, longer snout, shorter pectoral-fin, color of the adults, and habitat depth.

**Key words:** Habitat depth, coloration, speciation, genomic DNA, *Anthias duplicidentatus*

### Resumo

Uma população de águas rasas da costa Sudeste do Brasil de *Pronotogrammus martinicensis* (Guichenot, 1868) é descrita e reconhecida como sendo uma variação única da espécie, baseada em dados genéticos, morfológicos e ecológicos. Distingue-se da população de águas profundas pelo tamanho menor do olho e do nono raio superior da nadadeira peitoral, pelo maior focinho, pela coloração dos adultos e profundidade de habitat.

### Introduction

The groupers and seabasses are an ecologically and economically important part of tropical and sub-tropical reef fish communities. While they have long been thought to share close phylogenetic affinities, it has been recently proposed to split the family Serranidae (which included both groupers and seabasses) into two families: the Serranidae (seabasses and basslets) and Epinephelidae (groupers) (Craig & Hastings, 2007; Smith & Craig, 2007). The serranid sub-family Anthiinae is composed of marine fishes from tropical, subtropical, and temperate waters, with about 25 genera and 200 species, several of them recently described and other species awaiting description (W. D. Anderson, Jr., per. com.). The Atlantic and eastern Pacific members of this sub-family are currently under study by Anderson & Heemstra (manuscript in preparation). In Brazilian waters there are at least six species of Anthiinae in three genera: *Anthias* (4 species), *Hemanthias* (1) and *Pronotogrammus* (1) (Moura & Menezes, 2003); the latter genus being represented by *Pronotogrammus martinicensis* (Guichenot, 1868), which inhabits depths below 65 meters (Anderson & Heemstra, 1980).

While scuba-diving off Ilha Rasa in 2002, at the entrance of Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the first author noticed a loose aggregation of an anthiine species in shallow water (18 to 22 meters deep). Some