

***Pseudochromis erdmanni*, a new species of dottyback with medially placed palatine teeth from Indonesia (Teleostei: Perciformes: Pseudochromidae)**

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Abstract

Pseudochromis erdmanni is described from eight specimens from Halmahera, Ambon and the Raja Ampat Islands, Indonesia. It is also recorded from Lembeh Strait, Sulawesi, on the basis of photographs. *Pseudochromis erdmanni* belongs to a clade of species with medially placed palatine tooth patches, which also includes *P. colei* Herre, *P. howsoni* Allen, *P. moorei* Fowler, *P. quinquedentatus* McCulloch, *P. perspicillatus* Günther and *P. steenei* Gill & Randall. Based on derived coloration characters, *P. erdmanni* is nested within this group as the sister to *P. steenei*.

Key words: Pseudochromidae, *Pseudochromis*, new species, Indonesia

Introduction

The bulk of species in the pseudochromid subfamily Pseudochrominae are placed in the genus *Pseudochromis* Rüppell. However, there are no synapomorphies to diagnose the genus as monophyletic and it effectively serves as a catchall for species that cannot be placed in the remaining nine genera (Gill 2004). Within the genus are several demonstrably monophyletic groups of species. One such group consists of six described species characterised by a single synapomorphy (palatine tooth patches inserted medially behind (rather than more or less in line with) the vomerine tooth patch; see Gill 2004: fig. 23A): *P. colei* Herre (1933) from Culion, Philippines, *P. howsoni* Allen (1995) from northwestern Australia, *P. moorei* Fowler (1931) from the Philippines, *P. perspillatus* Günther (1862) from Indonesia and the Philippines, *P. quinquedentatus* McCulloch (1926) from northern Australia, and *P. steenei* Gill and Randall (1992) from Indonesia. We refrain from allocating subgeneric status to the group (though a name is available, *Devisina* Fowler, 1931, with type species *P. quinquedentatus*), pending the completion of phylogenetic studies of the Pseudochromidae currently in progress by the first author. This group may be further divided into two phenetic groups, one characterised by species with a dark longitudinal or oblique stripe on the body (*P. colei* and *P. perspicillatus*) and the other by species without a stripe (*P. howsoni*, *P. moorei*, *P. quinquedentatus* and *P. steenei*). We herein describe a new species in the latter group, based on material from Halmahera, Ambon and the Raja Ampat Islands, Indonesia. We also record the species from Lembeh Strait, Sulawesi, Indonesia, based on underwater photographs in Kuiter and Tonozuka (2001) and Kuiter and Debelius (2006).

Material and methods

Methods of counting and measuring follow Gill (2004). Type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Australian Museum (AMS), Pusat Penelitian dan Pengembangan Oseanologi, Jakarta, Indonesia (NCIP) and the Western Australian Museum (WAM). Comparisons with related species are based on specimens listed in Gill (2004).