

A NEW SPECIES OF CARDINALFISH (APOGONIDAE) FROM NORTHERN QUEENSLAND & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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SUMMARY

Apogon albimaculosus, a new species of cardinalfish, is described from eight specimens caught between Townsville in north Queensland and Yule Island in Papua New Guinea. The species is easily distinguished from other members of the family by its colouration. *A. albimaculosus* is provisionally placed in the subgenus *Nectamia*, but its precise relationships are obscure.

INTRODUCTION

In two samples of fish taken during experimental trawling near Yule Island, Papua, in November 1970 and February 1971, were single specimens of an apogonid fish which could not be assigned to any known species from the Indo-Australian region. A third specimen from near Daru, western Papua, was discovered in the fish collection at the Fisheries Research Station in Port Moresby. Enquiries revealed the presence of five more specimens in collections in Australia. The species represented by these eight specimens is placed in the subgenus *Nectamia* Jordan, in the genus *Apogon* Lacépède.

The description is based on the holotype and seven paratypes. Counts and proportions are given for the holotype, followed in parenthesis by the range and mean of those for the paratypes, except when these are the same as for the holotype. Measurements in millimetres for all types are presented in Table 1. These were made with dial calipers and recorded to the nearest 0.1 mm. Standard length is abbreviated as S.L. The last rays in the dorsal and anal fins are counted as one element each. One paratype (AM. I. 16232-001, 58 mm S.L.) was cleared and stained in Alizarin Red-S, using Taylor's (1967) enzyme method.

The holotype and three paratypes are deposited at the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Another paratype is lodged at the CSIRO, Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, Cronulla (CSIRO F. & O.). The three Papua New Guinea paratypes are held at the Australian Museum "in trust" to be eventually returned to Port Moresby upon the establishment of a curated fish collection at the Papua New Guinea National Museum.

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