

Description of a New Dottyback of the Genus *Pseudochromis* (Pisces: Pseudochromidae) from Western Australia

A.C. GILL^{1*} & D.J. WOODLAND²

¹Australian Museum,
PO Box A285, Sydney South, NSW 2000, Australia

²Department of Zoology, University of New England,
Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia

*Current Address: National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, DC 20560, USA

ABSTRACT. A new species of *Pseudochromis* (Pseudochromidae) is described on the basis of a single specimen trawled from 80 m at Glomar Shoal, off northern Western Australia. *Pseudochromis reticulatus* n.sp. is separable from other *Pseudochromis* in having the following characters in combination: dorsal rays III,27 (all soft rays branched), anal rays III,15, scales in lateral series 34 to 36, anterior lateral line scales 28 to 30, circumpeduncular scales 16, and caudal fin pointed.

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The coral reef fish family Pseudochromidae is currently divided into four subfamilies (Godkin & Winterbottom, 1985): Pseudochrominae (with nearly 70 species), Pseudoplesiopinae (about 25 species), Anisochrominae (2 species) and Congrogadinae (19 species). Studies of material for a systematic revision of the Pseudochrominae by the senior author have resulted in the discovery of a single specimen representing a new species.

This paper presents a description of the new species, which is here assigned tentatively to the genus *Pseudochromis* Rüppell (1835). Until recently, only one other pseudochromine genus, *Labracinus* Schlegel (1858),

has been generally recognised. Cladistic studies of osteological and other characters by the senior author have provided evidence for the resurrection of *Assiculus* Richardson (1846), *Cypho* Myers (1940 = *Nesiotes* De Vis, 1884) and *Ogilbyina* Fowler (1931) from synonymy with *Pseudochromis*, and the recognition of three new genera (all based on species previously referred to *Pseudochromis*). *Pseudochromis*, with over two thirds of the pseudochromine species, still remains a 'wastebasket' for species which cannot be placed in the other genera. More definite placement of the new species must await the completion of osteological studies which are being pursued in order to refine the generic classification of