

# *Ebinania australiae*, a New Species of Fathead Sculpin from Southern Australia (Scorpaeniformes: Psychrolutidae)

KEITH L. JACKSON AND JOSEPH S. NELSON\*

Department of Biological Sciences,  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9, Canada  
kjackson@ualberta.net · joe.nelson@ualberta.ca

**ABSTRACT.** A sixth species of *Ebinania* is described from nine specimens collected at depths of 982–1170 off southern Australia. Eight of the specimens were from the vicinity of Tasmania and the nearby mainland, and the ninth is from near Perth, Western Australia. The new species differs from its congeners in having cirri on the head, well-developed orbital rims, cranial arch 3 twisted upwards, prevomerine teeth in a continuous band, a single terminal chin pore, obsolete lateral line pores, and an overall pale colour. This is the third species of psychrolutid known from off continental Australia. Variation in important characters used in diagnosis of species of *Ebinania* is reported and problems of the characters in diagnosing these species are discussed. A key to species of *Ebinania* is provided.

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## Introduction

The genus *Ebinania* was erected for a new psychrolutid from Japan, *E. vermiculata*, by Sakamoto (1932). *Ebinania* remained monotypic until Nelson (1982) reassigned *E. brephocephala* (Jordan & Starks, 1903) and *E. costae-canariae* (Cervigón, 1961) from *Cottunculus*, and described two new species, *E. macquariensis* and *E. malacocephala*. Since then, no other species have been assigned to *Ebinania*. Psychrolutids have been known from off continental Australia since *Psychrolutes marcidus* (McCulloch, 1926) was described from off southeastern Australia. Until now, only one other psychrolutid, *Psychrolutes occidentalis* Fricke, 1990, has been found off continental Australia (off northeastern Australia). Herein we describe a new species of *Ebinania* from off Australia's southern coast.

## Materials and methods

Counts and measurements follow Nelson (1980). Measurements of soft anatomy are approximate because of the easily distorted bodies of these fish. Vertebral counts were obtained from radiographs. Osteology follows Jackson & Nelson (1998) except that the tabulars and supratemporals are referred to as extrascapulars, following Harrington (1955), and further named according to their associated sensory canal. The extrascapular supporting the lateral portion of the supratemporal canal is the lateral extrascapular, and the extrascapular supporting the transverse portion of this canal is the transverse extrascapular. Although arches 5 and 6 are lateral and transverse extrascapulars, respectively, they are referred to by their arch designation herein to facilitate comparison with previous psychrolutid work. Type specimens are deposited in the Australian National Fish Collection (formerly the I.S.R. Munro Ichthyological

\* author for correspondence