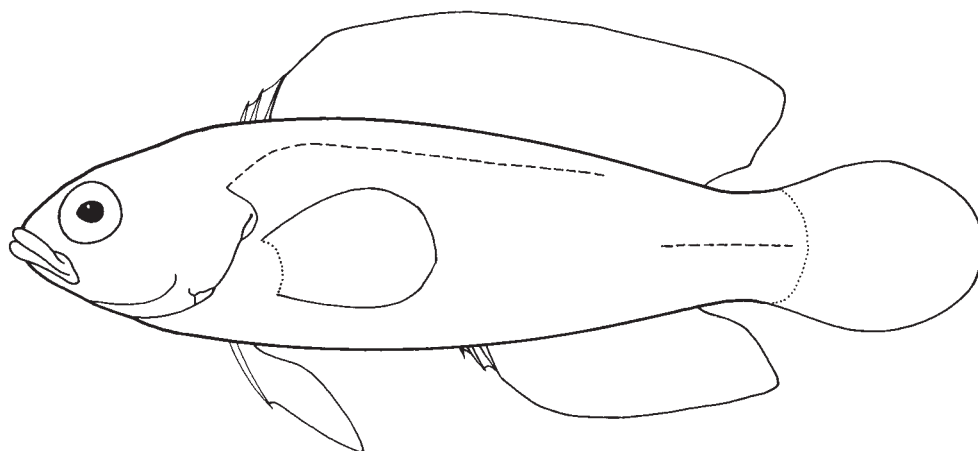


PSEUDOCHROMIDAE**Dottybacks (eelblennies)**

by A.C. Gill

Diagnostic characters: Perch-like to eel-like fishes (size to 45 cm), moderately deep bodied to elongate, usually moderately compressed. Mouth moderate, weakly protrusible; maxilla usually not extending posteriorly beyond middle of eye. **Branchiostegal rays 6, with a single ray articulating with the posterior ceratohyal (epihyal).** **Dorsal fin long based, composed of III or fewer spines (very rarely IV spines in some species) and 21 to 74 segmented rays.** **Lateral line modified (disjunct, posteriorly truncated or multiple).** Adductor mandibulae (jaw) musculature with a superficial, strap-like A₁ section, which inserts on the medial face of the maxilla and originates on the vertical part of the preopercle. Hypurals 1 and 2 fused to each other; hypurals 3 and 4 fused to each other and to urostyle complex; no interarcual cartilage between epibranchial 1 and infrapharyngobranchial 2; anterior part of suspensorium weakly attached to posterior part.



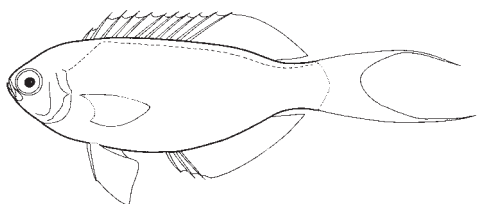
Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Cryptic diurnal inhabitants of coral reefs and rock bottoms; a few species live in large sponges; occur from shallow intertidal areas to depths of about 100 m. Most are generalist micropredators feeding on small fishes, crustaceans, small molluscs, and worms. Usually occur singly or in pairs. Many if not most species are sequential hermaphrodites. Eggs are ornamented with filaments and, sometimes, hook-like structures; eggs are arranged in a ball or mass, owing to the filaments of adjacent eggs entangling with each other; the egg mass is guarded by the male in a burrow or cave until the larvae hatch and become free swimming. The brighter coloured species (particularly *Pseudochromis diadema*, *P. paccagnellae*, and *P. porphyreus*) are of commercial importance in the aquarium fish trade.

Remarks: The generic assignment of species should be regarded as provisional; some species presently included herein in *Pseudochromis* and *Pseudoplesiops* will eventually be assigned to new genera.

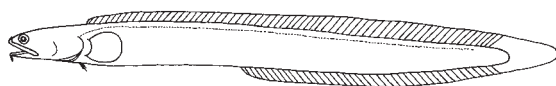
Similar families occurring in the area

Callanthiidae: resemble some pseudochromids, but have more dorsal-fin spines (X or XI versus III or fewer).

Notograptiidae: resemble some pseudochromids, but have mostly spinous rays in the dorsal and anal fins, a larger mouth (extending well beyond the posterior margin of the eye versus to anterior or middle of eye), and a conspicuous barbel-like lobe on the middle of the lower lip.



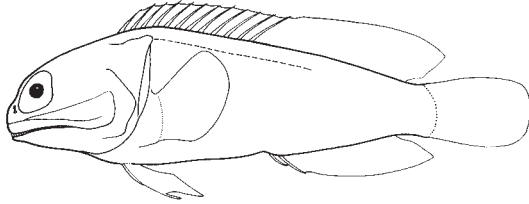
Callanthiidae



Notograptiidae

Opistognathidae: resemble some pseudochromids, but have more dorsal-fin spines (IX to XII versus III or fewer), a much larger mouth (extending well beyond posterior edge of eye versus to anterior or middle of eye), and a different configuration of the pelvic fins (composed of 1 spine and 5 segmented rays, the inner 3 weak and branched, the outer 2 stout and unbranched).

Pholidichthyidae: resemble some pseudochromids, but have a slightly inferior mouth (lower jaw projecting in pseudochromids), and a single nostril (versus 2 in pseudochromids) on each side of the head.



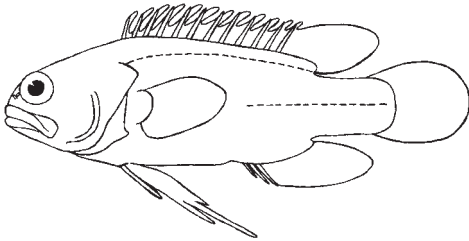
Opistognathidae



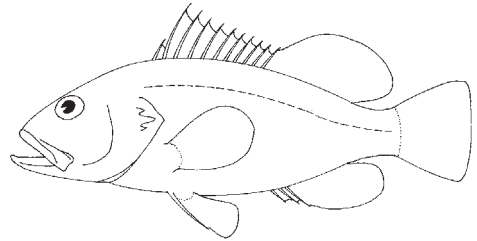
Pholidichthyidae

Plesiopidae: resemble some pseudochromids, but have more dorsal-fin spines (IX to XXVI versus III or fewer), and usually larger mouth (extending to posterior part of eye or beyond versus to anterior or middle of eye).

Serranidae: resemble certain pseudochromids, but usually have more dorsal-fin spines (VII to XIII in species within the area versus III or fewer in pseudochromids; among serranids, only *Rypticus* from the east Pacific and Atlantic has fewer than VII [II to IV] dorsal-fin spines), have 6 or 7 branchiostegal rays, and usually 3 (sometimes only 2 apparent) spines on opercle.



Plesiopidae



Serranidae

Key to the genera of Pseudochromidae occurring in the area

Remarks on key characters: generic characters given in the key are based only on species occurring in the area.

- 1a. Body elongate, body depth at anal-fin origin less than 16% standard length; segmented dorsal-fin rays 49 to 74; segmented anal-fin rays 38 to 66; pectoral-fin rays 9 to 11; branchiostegal membranes united posteriorly → 2
- 1b. Body not elongate, body depth at anal-fin origin greater than 20% standard length; segmented dorsal-fin rays 21 to 38; segmented anal-fin rays 10 to 21; pectoral-fin rays 15 to 20; branchiostegal membranes not united posteriorly → 4

- 2a. Pelvic fins present *Blennodesmus*
- 2b. Pelvic fins absent → 3

- 3a. Dorsal fin with none or I spine, and with 57 to 74 segmented rays; ocellated black spot either absent or on opercle *Congrogadus*
- 3b. Dorsal fin with II spines (second minute and buried in flesh behind first spine) and 49 segmented rays; ocellated spot on shoulder above gill opening *Haliophis*

- 4a.** Anterior lateral line consisting of a single tubed scale, and an intermittent series of centrally pitted scales; posterior lateral line consisting of an intermittent series of centrally pitted scales; pelvic fins with I spine and 3 or 4, usually unbranched, segmented rays *Pseudoplesiops*
- 4b.** Anterior lateral line consisting of a series of tubed scales; posterior lateral line consisting of a series of tubed scales; pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays → 5
- 5a.** Vomerine teeth small and arranged in broad triangular patch; segmented dorsal-fin rays 31 to 38; dorsal and anal fins with well-developed scaly sheaths *Ogilbyina*
- 5b.** Vomerine teeth relatively large and arranged in a chevron-shaped patch; combination of other characters not as above → 6
- 6a.** Tubed scales in anterior lateral line 43 to 62 *Labracinus*
- 6b.** Tubed scales in anterior lateral line 17 to 40 → 7
- 7a.** Opercle with serrations ventral to subopercle junction; at least some scales on cheek and/or operculum ctenoid; vertebrae 11+17 (rarely 11+18); supraneural bones 2, or 3 with the third much smaller than other 2 *Assiculus*
- 7b.** Combination of first 2 characters not as above; vertebrae 10+16; supraneural bones 3, of approximately equal size → 8
- 8a.** Dark oblique lines present on at least some anterior body scales; segmented dorsal-fin rays 23 (rarely 22 or 24); segmented anal-fin rays 14 (rarely 13 or 15); circumpeduncular scales 16 (rarely 14, 15, or 17) *Cypho*
- 8b.** No dark oblique lines on anterior body scales; combination of meristic characters not as above *Pseudochromis*

Key to the species of Pseudochromidae occurring in the area

Remarks on key characters: "scales in lateral series" refer to the number of scales in the anterior lateral line plus the number of posteroventrally sloping scale rows on the midside of the caudal peduncle, the latter beginning with the scale row immediately following the row including the last anterior lateral-line scale, and ending with the row including the scale at the hypural edge.

- 1a.** Body elongate, body depth at anal-fin origin less than 16% standard length; segmented dorsal-fin rays 49 to 74; segmented anal-fin rays 38 to 66; pectoral-fin rays 9 to 11; branchiostegal membranes united posteriorly → 2
- 1b.** Body usually not elongate, body depth at anal-fin origin usually greater than 20% standard length (15% in *Pseudoplesiops* sp. 3); segmented dorsal-fin rays 21 to 38; segmented anal-fin rays 10 to 21; pectoral-fin rays 15 to 20; branchiostegal membranes not united posteriorly → 8
- 2a.** Pelvic fins present *Blennodesmus scapularis*
- 2b.** Pelvic fins absent → 3
- 3a.** Dorsal fin with none or I spine, and with 57 to 74 segmented rays; ocellated black spot either absent or on opercle → 4
- 3b.** Dorsal fin with II spines (second minute and buried in flesh behind first spine) and 49 segmented rays; ocellated spot on shoulder above gill opening *Haliophis aethiopus*
- 4a.** Pale round spots present on body; gill membranes fused to isthmus → 5
- 4b.** No pale round spots on body; gill membranes fused together but free from isthmus → 7

- 5a.** White horizontal stripe from eye to lateral-line origin *Congrogadus spinifer*
- 5b.** No white horizontal stripe from eye to lateral-line origin, although a few horizontally aligned white spots sometimes present → **6**
- 6a.** Anterior part of body with 5 or 6 rows of pupil-diameter sized pale spots, the ventralmost row of spots not encroaching onto anal-fin ray bases *Congrogadus malayanus*
- 6b.** Anterior part of body with 3 or 4 rows of eye-diameter sized pale spots, the ventralmost row of spots encroaching onto anal-fin ray bases *Congrogadus amplimaculatus*
- 7a.** Dorsal fin without spines, with 68 to 76 segmented rays; sensory pores on head not surrounded by black spots *Congrogadus subducens*
- 7b.** Dorsal fin with I spine and 58 to 62 segmented rays; each sensory pore on head surrounded by small black spot *Congrogadus hierichthys*
- 8a.** Anterior lateral line consisting of a single tubed scale, and an intermittent series of centrally pitted scales; posterior lateral line consisting of an intermittent series of centrally pitted scales; pelvic fins with I spine and 3 or 4, usually unbranched, segmented rays → **9**
- 8b.** Anterior lateral line consisting of a series of tubed scales; posterior lateral line consisting of a series of tubed scales (sometimes absent in juveniles of some species); pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays → **21**
- 9a.** Scales with distinct centres and radii in all fields → **10**
- 9b.** Scales without distinct centres, with radii confined to anterior field → **11**
- 10a.** Dorsal fin with I weak spine and 22 or 23 segmented rays; anal fin with I weak spine and 13 or 14 segmented rays; transverse scale rows from gill opening to base of caudal fin 26 to 29; posterior rim of eye broadly edged with dark grey to black *Pseudoplesiops rosae*
- 10b.** Dorsal fin with II weak spines and 24 to 26 segmented rays; anal fin with II or III weak spines and 14 to 16 segmented rays; transverse scale rows from gill opening to base of caudal fin 33 to 39; narrow red to grey or black ring around edge of eye *Pseudoplesiops typus*
- 11a.** Posterior body scales ctenoid; transverse scale rows from upper edge of gill opening to base of caudal fin 30 to 42 → **12**
- 11b.** All body scales cycloid; transverse scale rows from upper edge of gill opening to base of caudal fin 53 to 66 → **18**
- 12a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 23 or 24; segmented anal-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14) → **13**
- 12b.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 to 29; segmented anal-fin rays 15 to 18 → **14**
- 13a.** Predorsal scales extending anteriorly to or almost to posterior part of eyes; eye diameter 10 to 13% standard length *Pseudoplesiops knighti*
- 13b.** Predorsal scales extending anteriorly to above posterior edge of preopercle; eye diameter 8 to 10% standard length *Pseudoplesiops howensis*
- 14a.** A prominent fleshy keel or flap on chin → **15**
- 14b.** No prominent fleshy keel or flap on chin, at most a weak ridge → **16**
- 15a.** Large dark spot on opercle *Pseudoplesiops revellei*
- 15b.** No large dark spot on opercle *Pseudoplesiops sp. 1*
- 16a.** Circumpeduncular scales 20; 2 dark, oblique bars on head and anterior part of body *Pseudoplesiops collare*
- 16b.** Circumpeduncular scales 16; head without dark oblique bars → **17**
- 17a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 or 26 (usually 25); segmented anal-fin rays 14 to 16 (usually 15); dark spots, if present, on bases of each segmented ray of dorsal and anal fins; pelvic fins usually with small, conspicuous dark spots *Pseudoplesiops annae*
- 17b.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 27 to 29 (usually 28); segmented anal-fin rays 16 to 18; dark spots present on bases of alternate segmented rays of dorsal and anal fins; pelvic fins without dark spots *Pseudoplesiops sp. 2*

- 18a.** Body depth at dorsal-fin origin 15% standard length; vertebrae 14+18 *Pseudoplesiops* sp. 3
- 18b.** Body depth at dorsal-fin origin 19 to 29% standard length; vertebrae 12-13+17-18 (rarely 19) = 30 (rarely 31) → 19
- 19a.** Four anal-fin pterygiophores precede second haemal spine; vertebrae 13+17; body depth at dorsal-fin origin 19 to 21% standard length *Pseudoplesiops* sp. 4
- 19b.** Three (rarely 2) anal-fin pterygiophores precede second haemal spine; vertebrae usually 12+18 (rarely 13+17 or 12+19); body depth at dorsal-fin origin 21 to 29% standard length → 20
- 20a.** Two (rarely 1) anal-fin pterygiophores precede first haemal spine; body depth at dorsal-fin origin 21 to 25% standard length; pectoral-fin rays 16 to 18 (usually 17) *Pseudoplesiops multisquamatus*
- 20b.** One (rarely 2) anal-fin pterygiophores precede first haemal spine; body depth at dorsal-fin origin 25 to 29% standard length; pectoral-fin rays 17 to 19 *Pseudoplesiops* sp. 5
- 21a.** Vomerine teeth small and arranged in broad triangular patch; segmented dorsal-fin rays 31 to 38; dorsal and anal fins with well-developed scaly sheaths → 22
- 21b.** Vomerine teeth relatively large and arranged in a chevron-shaped patch; combination of other characters not as above → 24
- 22a.** Scales above anal-fin origin 15 to 20 (formula: 14 to 16 + 1 + 2 or 3 = 15 to 20); circumpeduncular scales 19 or 20; dark brown (bright blue to dark purple or black in life) spots present on cheeks, operculum, pectoral-fin base, and breast *Ogilbyina salvati*
- 22b.** Scales above anal-fin origin 21 to 28 (formula: 17 to 23 + 1 + 2 to 5 = 21 to 28); circumpeduncular scales 22 to 26; coloration not as above → 23
- 23a.** Body relatively shallow, dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 25 to 31% standard length; gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch 10 to 12 (usually 11); first dorsal-fin pterygiophore inserted either between first and second neural spines or anterior to first neural spine *Ogilbyina novaehollandiae*
- 23b.** Body relatively deep, dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 32 to 36% standard length; gill rakers on lower limb of first gill arch 11 to 13 (usually 12); first dorsal-fin pterygiophore inserted between second and third neural spines *Ogilbyina queenslandiae*
- 24a.** Tubed scales in anterior lateral line 43 to 62 → 25
- 24b.** Tubed scales in anterior lateral line 17 to 40 → 26
- 25a.** Horizontal scale rows above anal-fin origin to dorsal-fin base 30 to 31; pseudobranch filaments 23 or 24; circumpeduncular scales 32; in preservative a series of narrow (less than 1 scale wide) dark brown oblique bars on sides of body beneath posterior two-thirds of dorsal fin; a large (subequal to pupil) dark brown spot positioned on basal third of dorsal fin between segmented rays 21 and 24 *Labracinus atrofasciatus*
- 25b.** Horizontal scale rows above anal-fin origin to dorsal-fin base 23 to 30 (usually 24 to 28); pseudobranch filaments 12 to 20; circumpeduncular scales 24 to 30 (usually 26 to 28); bars on sides of body, if present, broad (several scales wide) and confined to beneath anterior half of dorsal fin; spots if present at posterior of dorsal fin small (less than 1/2 pupil diameter) *Labracinus cyclophthalmus*
- 26a.** Opercle with serrations ventral to subopercle junction; at least some scales on cheek and/or operculum ctenoid; vertebrae 11+17 (rarely 11+18); supraneural bones 2, or 3 with the third much smaller than other 2 *Assiculus punctatus*
- 26b.** Combination of first 2 characters not as above; vertebrae 10+16; supraneural bones 3, of approximately equal size → 27

- 27a.** Dark oblique lines present on at least some anterior body scales; segmented dorsal-fin rays 23 (rarely 22 or 24); segmented anal-fin rays 14 (rarely 13 or 15); circumpeduncular scales 16 (rarely 14, 15, or 17) → **28**
- 27b.** No dark oblique lines on anterior body scales; combination of meristic characters not as above → **29**
- 28a.** Central dark lines on scales on anterior part of body aligning to form oblique bars
 *Cypho purpurascens*
- 28b.** Central dark lines on scales not aligning to form oblique bars *Cypho sp.*
- 29a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 20 to 22 (usually 22); segmented anal-fin rays 10 to 13 (usually 11 or 12); total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 24, of which 5 to 8 on upper limb, and 13 to 17 on lower limb → **30**
- 29b.** Combination of meristic characters not as above → **35**
- 30a.** Posterior part of body uniformly blue grey or reddish purple to magenta in life → **31**
- 30b.** Posterior part of body entirely or partly bright yellow in life (yellow area usually noticeably paler than anterior or dorsoanterior part of body in preservative) → **32**
- 31a.** Head and body uniformly reddish purple to magenta in life (pale brown to purplish grey or brown in preservative). *Pseudochromis porphyreus*
- 31b.** Snout, dorsal contour of head, and sometimes dorsal contour of body to beneath posterior part of dorsal fin bright yellow in life (pale brown in preservative), the remainder of head and body dark blue-grey to magenta (brown in preservative) *Pseudochromis aurifrons*
- 32a.** Dorsal contour of head and body magenta in life (greyish brown in preservative), the remainder of head and body bright yellow (pale brown in preservative) . . . *Pseudochromis diadema*
- 32b.** Head entirely reddish purple to magenta in life → **33**
- 33a.** Posterior part of body bright purple (pinkish grey in preservative) with bright yellow (pale yellow in preservative) saddle-like marking extending from anterior part of dorsal fin to upper caudal-fin rays *Pseudochromis ehippiatus*
- 33b.** Head and body anterior to a more or less vertical line through vicinity of anal-fin origin magenta in life (greyish brown to brown or grey in preservative), the remainder of body bright yellow (pale brown to brown or pale greyish brown in preservative) → **34**
- 34a.** Scales in lateral series 33 to 39 (usually 34 to 38) *Pseudochromis paccagnellae*
- 34b.** Scales in lateral series 36 to 42 (usually 38 to 42) *Pseudochromis sp. 1*
- 35a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 22; segmented anal-fin rays 13; scales in lateral series 28 to 32; dorsal and anal fins with well-developed scaly sheaths *Pseudochromis marginatus*
- 35b.** Character combination not as above → **36**
- 36a.** Dorsal fin with II spines and 25 or 26 (usually 26) segmented rays; segmented anal-fin rays 16 *Pseudochromis veliferus*
- 36b.** Character combination not as above → **37**
- 37a.** At least some scales on cheek and/or operculum ctenoid → **38**
- 37b.** All scales on cheek and operculum cycloid → **40**
- 38a.** Curved dark brown to black bar extending from nape through eye to interopercle
 *Pseudochromis splendens*
- 38b.** Coloration not as above → **39**


- 39a.** Predorsal scales 17 to 22, extending anteriorly to point ranging from above midanterior part of eye to just behind posterior nostrils; caudal fin rounded to truncate *Pseudochromis* sp. 2
- 39b.** Predorsal scales 16 to 30, and 25 to 30 in specimens larger than 3 cm standard length, extending anteriorly to point ranging from above midanterior part of eye to slightly anterior of anterior nostrils (anterior to posterior nostrils in specimens larger than 3 cm standard length); caudal fin emarginate in small (less than 3 cm) specimens, becoming strongly emarginate to lunate in larger specimens *Pseudochromis polynemus*
- 40a.** Pectoral fins black; well-developed denticles on outer ceratobranchial-1 gill rakers mainly confined to raker tips; 3 or 4 (usually 4) dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting anterior to neural spine 4 → 41
- 40b.** Combination of first 2 characters not as above; 3 dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting anterior to neural spine 4 → 42
- 41a.** Pectoral-fin rays 17 to 19 (usually 18 or 19); horizontal scale rows above anal-fin origin to anterior lateral line 14 to 17; circumpeduncular scales 18 to 21 *Pseudochromis paranox*
- 41b.** Pectoral-fin rays 16 or 17; horizontal scale rows above anal-fin origin to anterior lateral line 12 or 13; circumpeduncular scales 16 *Pseudochromis* sp. 3
- 42a.** Palatine tooth patches directed strongly inward behind posterolateral arms of vomerine tooth patch → 43
- 42b.** Palatine tooth patches more or less contiguous with posterolateral arms of vomerine tooth patch → 48
- 43a.** Upper part of body with a dark longitudinal stripe → 44
- 43b.** No dark stripe on upper part of body → 45
- 44a.** Dark stripe on upper part of body extends below anterior lateral line to upper caudal-fin rays; scales in lateral series 33 or 34; scales between lateral lines 3; circumpeduncular scales 16 *Pseudochromis colei*
- 44b.** Dark stripe on upper part of body crosses middle of anterior lateral line to join basal stripe on midposterior part of dorsal fin; scales in lateral series 38 to 42; scales between lateral lines 4 to 6; circumpeduncular scales 20 to 24 *Pseudochromis perspicillatus*
- 45a.** No prominent dark spot in front of each anterior nostril; posterodorsal corner of operculum without dark spot; caudal fin rounded *Pseudochromis quinquedentatus*
- 45b.** A prominent dark spot in front of each anterior nostril; indistinct to distinct grey to black spot present on posterodorsal corner of operculum; caudal fin rounded, becoming strongly emarginate in large specimens → 46
- 46a.** Anal fin with broad dark distal stripe; pelvic fins pale, with anterior margin broadly dark; pale bar extending from behind eye to posterior edge of upper jaw *Pseudochromis steenei*
- 46b.** Coloration not as above → 47
- 47a.** Dark spot on operculum indistinct and small, smaller than pupil; preopercle edge not dark *Pseudochromis howsoni*
- 47b.** Dark spot on operculum distinct and large, approximately equal to eye size; preopercle edge dark *Pseudochromis moorei*
- 48a.** Circumpeduncular scales 16 to 23 (rarely fewer than 18) → 49
- 48b.** Circumpeduncular scales 15 to 18 (usually 16) → 56
- 49a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 23 to 25 (usually 24) → 50
- 49b.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 to 31 (usually 26 to 30) → 52








- 50a.** Anal-fin spines slender and weakly pungent to flexible, the second spine about as stout as the third *Pseudochromis flammicauda*
- 50b.** Anal-fin spines relatively stout and pungent, the second spine much stouter than the third → 51
- 51a.** Segmented anal-fin rays 12 or 13 (usually 13); scales in lateral series 31 to 36; predorsal scales 18 to 24; scales of body behind pectoral-fin base each with a large pale yellow to pale brown central spot *Pseudochromis* sp. 4
- 51b.** Segmented anal-fin rays 13 or 14 (usually 14); scales in lateral series 36 to 39; predorsal scales 14 to 18; no large pale spots on body scales *Pseudochromis ransonneti*
- 52a.** Body with 8 to 15 brown (black in life) straight-edged stripes *Pseudochromis cometes*
- 52b.** If dark stripes present on body, these consisting of closely spaced spots so that stripes wider at base of each scale → 53
- 53a.** Well-developed denticles on ceratobranchial-1 outer rakers arranged in 2 rows running most of raker lengths; dorsal and anal fins usually with weakly to well-developed scaly sheaths present on at least posterior part of fins *Pseudochromis fuscus*
- 53b.** Well-developed denticles on ceratobranchial-1 outer rakers mainly confined to raker tips; dorsal and anal fins without scaly sheaths → 54
- 54a.** Segmented anal-fin rays 15 *Pseudochromis pictus*
- 54b.** Segmented anal-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14) → 55
- 55a.** Second anal-fin spine much stouter than the third *Pseudochromis bitaeniatus*
- 55b.** Second anal-fin spine about as stout as the third *Pseudochromis wilsoni*
- 56a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 21 to 23 (usually 22); segmented anal-fin rays 12 to 14 (rarely 12 or 14); 2 epurals → 57
- 56b.** Combination of fin-ray counts not as above; 3 epurals → 60
- 57a.** Males with dark grey to black horseshoe-shaped mark on caudal fin; females with conspicuous dark grey to black spot covering posttemporal pores (immediately above gill opening); scales in lateral series 27 to 34 (usually 29 to 32); predorsal scales 10 to 15 (usually 11 to 13) *Pseudochromis tapeinosoma*
- 57b.** Males without dark horseshoe-shaped mark on caudal fin; females with inconspicuous grey to dusky grey spot covering posttemporal pores; scales in lateral series 29 to 40 (usually 30 to 38); predorsal scales 11 to 19 (usually 13 to 16) → 58
- 58a.** Scales in lateral series 33 to 40 (usually 35 to 38); anterior lateral-line scales 28 to 34 (usually 29 to 33); scales below anterior lateral line 11 to 14 (usually 12 or 13) *Pseudochromis coccinicauda*
- 58b.** Scales in lateral series 29 to 37 (usually 31 to 35); anterior lateral-line scales 23 to 31 (usually 24 to 29); scales below anterior lateral line 9 to 13 (usually 10 to 12) → 59
- 59a.** Males with lower part of head and breast and scales of ascending portion of anterior lateral line and of scale row immediately below horizontal portion of anterior lateral line abruptly yellowish brown to bright yellow (pale brown to brown in preservative), the remainder of head and body dark grey to black (dark brown to black in preservative); scales in lateral series 30 to 37 (usually 31 to 36) *Pseudochromis cyanotaenia*
- 59b.** Males dark grey to black (dark brown to black in preservative), with lower part of head and body in front of anal fin yellowish (pale brown to brown in preservative); scales in lateral series 29 to 35 (usually 30 to 33) *Pseudochromis* sp. 5

- 60a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 to 27 (usually 26), with only the last 2 to 9 rays branched → **61**
- 60b.** Character combination not as above → **62**
- 61a.** Body more or less uniformly pale to dark; horizontal scales above anal-fin origin to dorsal-fin base 14 to 16 *Pseudochromis elongatus*
- 61b.** Body pale with 5 to 8 dark stripes; horizontal scales above anal-fin origin 11 or 12 *Pseudochromis striatus*
- 62a.** Fin spines weakly pungent to flexible; second anal-fin spine about as stout as the third; lower lip varying from incomplete with weak symphyseal interruption to complete → **63**
- 62b.** Fin spines stout; second anal-fin spine slightly to much stouter than the third; lower lip incomplete → **65**
- 63a.** Anterior lateral-line scales 25 or 26; anterior lateral line terminating beneath segmented dorsal-fin ray 15 or 16; 4 consecutive dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting in a 1:1 association with interneural spaces immediately behind neural spine 4 *Pseudochromis kolythrus*
- 63b.** Anterior lateral-line scales 26 to 34 (usually 28 to 31); anterior lateral line terminating beneath segmented dorsal-fin ray 17 to 25 (usually 19 to 24); 1 to 4 (usually 1 to 3) consecutive dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting in a 1:1 association with interneural spaces immediately behind neural spine 4 → **64**
- 64a.** Dorsoanterior part of caudal peduncle usually with indistinct to distinct grey to black spot; 1 or 2 (modally 1) consecutive dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting in a 1:1 association with interneural spaces immediately behind neural spine 4; pectoral-fin rays 18 to 20 *Pseudochromis jamesi*
- 64b.** Coloration not as above; 2 or 3 (modally 3) consecutive dorsal-fin pterygiophores inserting in a 1:1 association with interneural spaces immediately behind neural spine 4; pectoral-fin rays 16 to 19 (usually 17 or 18) *Pseudochromis luteus*
- 65a.** Third anal-fin spine length 10 to 14% standard length; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 30 to 35% standard length; scales in lateral series 30 to 34 *Pseudochromis fowleri*
- 65b.** Third anal-fin spine length 6 to 9% standard length; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 23 to 32% standard length; scales in lateral series 33 to 42 → **66**
- 66a.** Segmented anal-fin rays 16; scales below anterior lateral line 10 to 12 (usually 10 or 11) *Pseudochromis flavopunctatus*
- 66b.** Segmented anal-fin rays 11 to 15; scales below anterior lateral line 11 to 15 (usually 12 to 14) → **67**
- 67a.** Caudal fin rounded in small (less than 3.5 cm) specimens, becoming pointed (rounded with middle rays produced) in larger specimens; in preservative, predorsal contour and nape pale pinkish brown; dorsal contour of body and caudal peduncle with dark, grey-brown reticulation surrounding pale spots *Pseudochromis reticulatus*
- 67b.** Caudal fin rounded, truncate, or emarginate; coloration not as above → **68**
- 68a.** Segmented anal-fin rays 11 to 14 (usually 13) *Pseudochromis marshallensis*
- 68b.** Segmented anal-fin rays 13 to 15 (usually 14 or 15) → **69**
- 69a.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 22 to 25 (usually 24) *Pseudochromis andamanensis*
- 69b.** Segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 to 27 → **70**
- 70a.** No dark spot on axil of pectoral fins; segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 *Pseudochromis litus*
- 70b.** Dark spot on axil of pectoral fins; segmented dorsal-fin rays usually 26 or 27 (rarely 25) → **71**

- 71a.** Head and anterior part of body bright golden-orange (yellowish brown in preservative), becoming bluish grey posteriorly, with caudal fin bluish grey basally (brown in preservative); segmented dorsal-fin rays 27; distance from anal-fin origin to middle dorsal-fin ray (spines included in enumerating middle ray) 27 to 29% standard length; caudal peduncle depth (measured between bases of last dorsal- and anal-fin rays) 16 to 17% standard length *Pseudochromis aurulentus*
- 71b.** Head and body bluish grey (brown in preservative), paler ventrally, with caudal fin, caudal peduncle, and posterior part of body behind middle of anal fin abruptly bright yellow (pale brown in preservative); segmented dorsal-fin rays 25 to 27 (usually 26); distance from anal-fin origin to middle dorsal-fin ray (spines included in enumerating middle ray) 22 to 27% standard length; caudal peduncle depth (measured between bases of last dorsal- and anal-fin rays) 14 to 16% standard length *Pseudochromis pylei*

List of species occurring in the area

The symbol  is given when species accounts are included.

-  *Assiculus punctatus* Richardson, 1846
Blennodesmus scapularis Günther, 1871
Congrogadus amplimaculatus (Winterbottom, 1980)
Congrogadus heirichthys Jordan and Richardson, 1908
Congrogadus malayanus (Weber, 1909)
Congrogadus spinifer (Borodin, 1933)
 *Congrogadus subducens* (Richardson, 1843)
 *Cypho purpurascens* (De Vis, 1884)
Cypho sp.
Haliophis aethiopus Winterbottom, 1985
Labracinus atrofasciatus (Herre, 1933)
 *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849)
Ogilbyina novaehollandiae (Steindachner, 1880)
 *Ogilbyina queenslandiae* (Saville-Kent, 1893)
Ogilbyina salvati (Plessis and Fourmanoir, 1966)
Pseudochromis andamanensis Lubbock, 1980
Pseudochromis aurifrons Lubbock, 1980
Pseudochromis aurulentus Gill and Randall, 1998
Pseudochromis bitaeniatus (Fowler, 1931)
Pseudochromis coccinicauda (Tickell, 1888)
Pseudochromis colei Herre, 1933
Pseudochromis cometes Gill and Randall, 1998
 *Pseudochromis cyanotaenia* Bleeker, 1857
Pseudochromis diadema Lubbock and Randall, 1978
Pseudochromis elongatus Lubbock, 1980
Pseudochromis ephippiatus Gill, Pyle, and Earle, 1996
Pseudochromis flammicauda Lubbock and Goldman, 1976
Pseudochromis flavopunctatus Gill and Randall, 1998
Pseudochromis fowleri Herre, 1934
 *Pseudochromis fuscus* Müller and Troschel, 1849
Pseudochromis howsoni Allen, 1995
Pseudochromis kolythrus Gill and Winterbottom, 1993
Pseudochromis litus Gill and Randall, 1988
Pseudochromis luteus Aoyagi, 1943
Pseudochromis marginatus Lubbock, 1980
Pseudochromis marshallensis Schultz, 1953
Pseudochromis moorei Fowler, 1931
Pseudochromis paccagnellae Axelrod, 1973
Pseudochromis paranox Lubbock and Goldman, 1976

- Pseudochromis perspicillatus* Günther, 1862
Pseudochromis pictus Gill and Randall, 1998
 ✦ *Pseudochromis polynemus* Fowler, 1931
 ✦ *Pseudochromis porphyreus* Lubbock and Goldman, 1974
Pseudochromis pylei Randall and McCosker, 1989
Pseudochromis quinquedentatus McCulloch
Pseudochromis ransonneti Steindachner, 1870
Pseudochromis reticulatus Gill and Woodland, 1992
Pseudochromis splendens Fowler, 1931
Pseudochromis steenei Gill and Randall, 1992
Pseudochromis striatus Gill, Shao, and Chen, 1995
Pseudochromis tapeinosoma Bleeker, 1853
Pseudochromis veliferus Lubbock, 1980
Pseudochromis wilsoni (Whitley, 1929)
Pseudochromis sp. 1
Pseudochromis sp. 2
Pseudochromis sp. 3
Pseudochromis sp. 4
Pseudochromis sp. 5

Pseudoplesiops annae (Weber, 1913)
Pseudoplesiops collare Gill, Randall, and Edwards, 1991
Pseudoplesiops howensis Allen, 1987
Pseudoplesiops knighti Allen, 1987
Pseudoplesiops multisquamatus Allen, 1987
Pseudoplesiops revillei Schultz, 1953
Pseudoplesiops rosae Schultz, 1943
 ✦ *Pseudoplesiops typus* Bleeker, 1858
Pseudoplesiops sp. 1
Pseudoplesiops sp. 2
Pseudoplesiops sp. 3
Pseudoplesiops sp. 4
Pseudoplesiops sp. 5

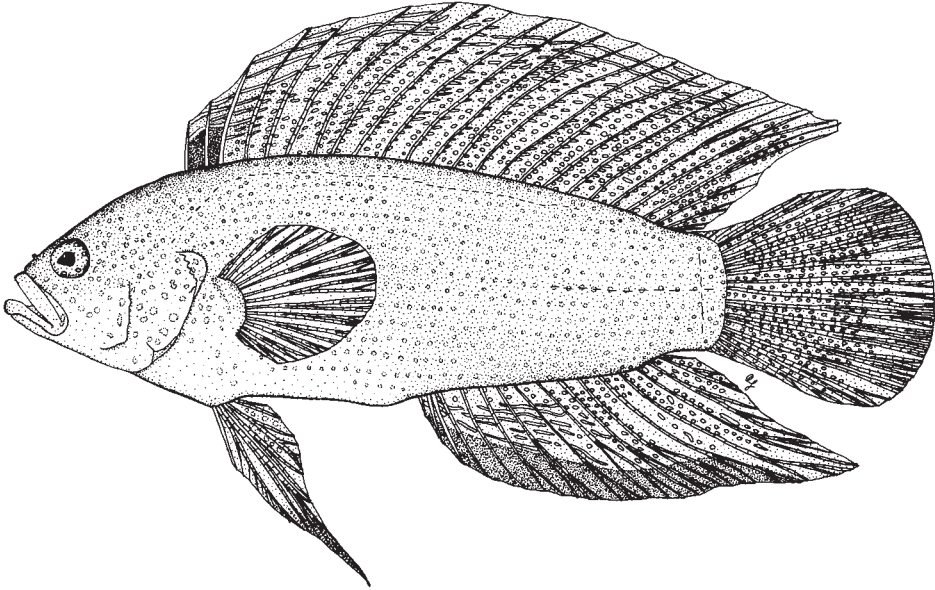
References

- Fowler, H.W. 1931. Contributions to the biology of the Philippine Archipelago and adjacent regions. The fishes of the families Pseudochromidae, Lobotidae, Pempheridae, Priacanthidae, Lutjanidae, Pomadasysidae, and Theraponidae, collected by the United States Bureau of Fisheries Steamer "Albatross", chiefly in Philippine seas and adjacent waters. *Bull. U.S. Natl. Mus.*, 100(11):1-388.
- Wintersbottom, R. 1986. Revision and vicariance biogeography of the subfamily Congrogadinae (Pisces: Perciformes: Pseudochromidae). *Indo-Pac. Fishes*, (9):34 p.

Assiculus punctatus Richardson, 1846

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pseudochromis punctatus* (Richardson, 1846) / None.

FAO names: En - Bluespotted dottyback.

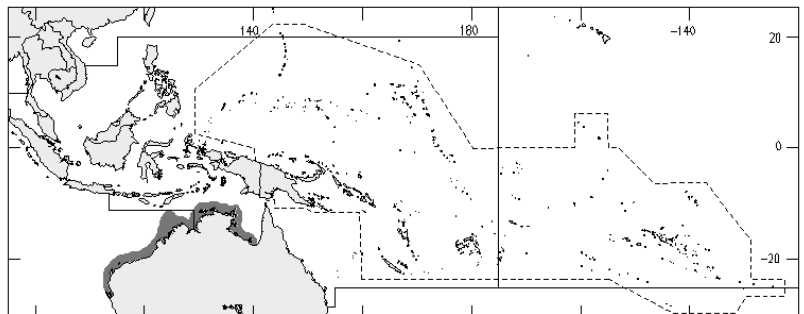


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 29 to 34% standard length. **Lower lip uninterrupted at symphysis.** Vomerine teeth relatively large, arranged in a chevron. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 13 to 17, of which 4 to 6 on upper limb, and 9 to 11 on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III spines and 23 (rarely 22 or 24) mostly unbranched, segmented rays.** **Anal fin with III spines and 13 (rarely 12 or 14) mostly unbranched, segmented rays.** **Caudal fin rounded, the upper part with 5 (rarely 4) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 4 (rarely 5) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays.** Pectoral fins with 17 or 18 (rarely 15 or 16) segmented rays. Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. **Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 33 to 43 (usually 36 to 40) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 6 to 9 (rarely 5 or 10) tubed scales.** **Circumpeduncular scales 17 to 21 (usually 19 or 20).** Dorsal and anal fins without distinct scaly sheaths. Vertebrae 11+17 (rarely 11+18); supraneural (predorsal) bones either 2, or 3 with the third a rudiment. **Colour:** head, body, and fins either uniformly grey to dark grey or brown to olive, sometimes with ventral part of head and breast reddish brown to bright yellow; **small, bright blue spots on head and body;** dorsal, anal, caudal, and pelvic fins with bright blue spots or bright blue irregular stripes and short streaks; pectoral fins clear.

Size: Maximum total length 8 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits coastal reefs and weedbed areas, often in relatively silty waters, at depths ranging to 30 m. A cryptic reef species, usually found in association with highly eroded limestone reef and rocks. Of considerable potential as an aquarium fish.

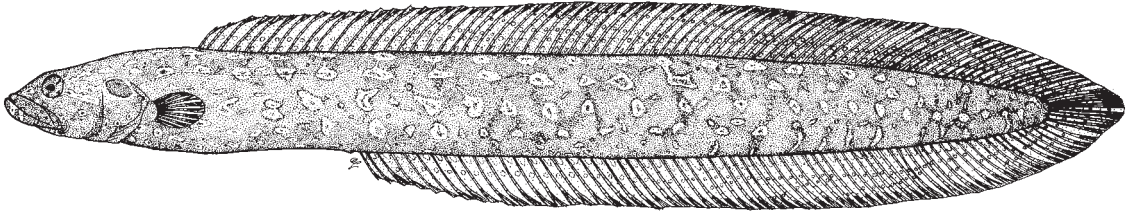
Distribution: Northwestern Australia, from Shark Bay to the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Congrogadus subducens (Richardson, 1843)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Carpet eelblenny.

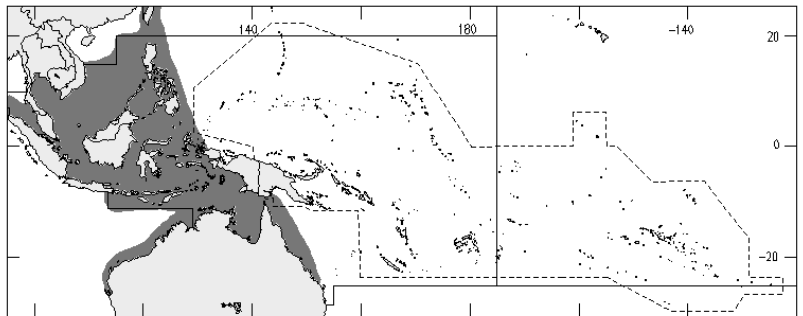


Diagnostic characters: Body elongate and laterally compressed; body depth at anal-fin origin 7 to 16% standard length. **Dorsal fin without spines, with 68 to 76 branched, segmented rays. Anal fin without spines, with 57 to 66 branched, segmented rays.** Caudal fin confluent with dorsal and anal fins, with 5 branched rays in upper part, and 5 branched rays in lower part of fin; no unbranched rays. Pectoral fins with 9 to 11 segmented rays. **Pelvic fins absent.** Lateral line composed of 42 to 68 pored scales extending from gill opening. Cheek, opercle, and body covered with small, elliptical cycloid scales. **Colour:** head and body variegated green or reddish brown to brown, with irregular pale spots (up to eye diameter in size); pale spots sometimes forming reticulations or bands; **large ocellated dark spot usually present on opercle;** dorsal, anal, and caudal fins similar to body coloration; pectoral fins clear.

Size: Maximum total length 45 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Cryptic inhabitant of shallow coral and rock reefs, often in silty areas adjacent to seagrass beds. Sometimes enters the aquarium fish trade.

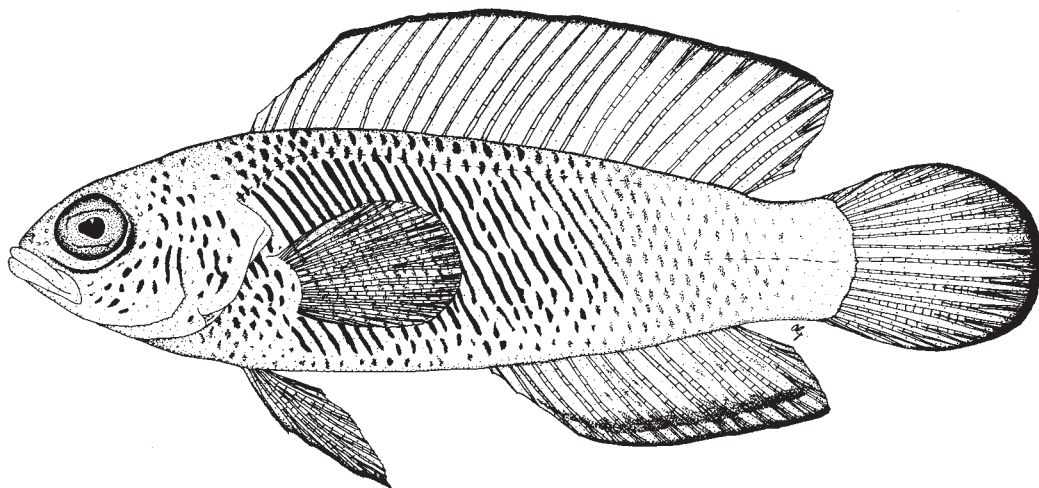
Distribution: Nicobar Islands to southern coast of Queensland, Australia, north to the Ryukyu Islands and south to the central coast of Western Australia.



Cypho purpurascens (De Vis, 1884)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pseudochromis mccullochi* Myers, 1932; *P. mccullochi perpulcher* Whitley, 1959 / None.

FAO names: En - Obliquelined dottyback.

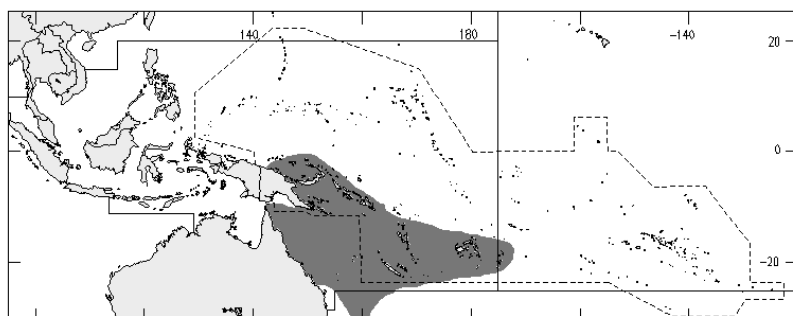


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately slender; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 27 to 30% standard length. **Lower lip either uninterrupted at symphysis or with weak interruption only.** Vomerine teeth relatively large, arranged in a chevron. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 14 to 19 (usually 15 or 16), of which 4 to 7 (usually 4 or 5) on upper limb, and 10 to 13 (usually 11 or 12) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III slender spines and 23 (rarely 22 or 24) segmented rays, with at least some anterior rays unbranched.** Anal fin with III slender spines and 14 (rarely 13 or 15) segmented rays. Caudal fin rounded, the upper part with 6 (rarely 5 or 7) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 5 or 6 (rarely 4) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 17 to 19 segmented rays. Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. **Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 23 to 32 (usually 25 to 29) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 3 to 9 (usually 5 to 7) tubed scales.** Circumpeduncular scales 16 (rarely 17). **Dorsal and anal fins without distinct scaly sheaths.** Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** head and body either bright orange to bright red (males) or brown to olive with large pink to red area above anterior part of anal fin (females); scattered pink to bright green spots on top of head and snout; mauve to bright blue line extending around posteroventral edge of eye; cheek and operculum with scattered mauve to dark blue bars and irregular markings; females usually with large bright yellow spot on cheek behind eye; **blue to magenta or black bars following oblique scale rows on anterior part of body**, these becoming broken and indistinct posteriorly; dorsal, anal, and caudal fins similar to adjacent body coloration, often adorned with blue, red, or brown stripes and/or spots; males sometimes with 1 to 3 large, gold-edged black spots on midanterior part of dorsal fin.

Size: Maximum total length 7.5 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Cryptic inhabitant of coral and rock reefs, occurring in tidal pools, lagoonal reefs, and reef slopes to depths of at least 40 m. Sometimes enters the aquarium fish trade.

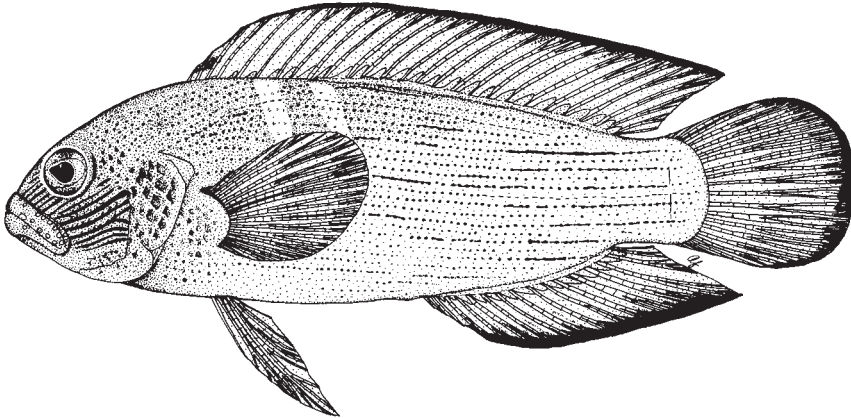
Distribution: Southwest Pacific, from the Great Barrier Reef and Papua New Guinea east to Tonga.



Labracinus cyclophthalmus (Müller and Troschel, 1849)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Cichlops melanotaenia* Bleeker, 1852; *C. spilopterus* Bleeker, 1853; *C. hellmuthii* Bleeker, 1854; *C. japonicus* Gill, 1859; *C. trispilos* Bleeker, 1855; *Dampiera melanostigma* Fowler, 1931; *D. ocellifera* Fowler, 1946 (including various combinations of these in *Cichlops*, *Dampiera*, and *Labracinus*) / *Labracinus lineatus* (Castenau, 1875); *Pseudochromis fuscus* Müller and Troschel, 1849.

FAO names: En - Red dottyback.

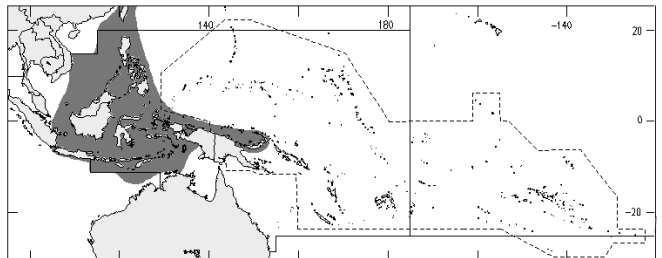


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep to deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 31 to 38% standard length. **Lower lip uninterrupted at symphysis. Vomerine teeth relatively large, arranged in a chevron.** Total gill rakers on first gill arch 18 to 22 (rarely 17 or 23), of which 6 to 9 (rarely 10) on upper limb, and 11 to 14 (rarely 15) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with II slender spines and 25 (rarely 24 or 26) mostly branched, segmented rays.** Anal fin with III spines and 14 (rarely 15) branched, segmented rays. Caudal fin rounded, the upper part with 5 or 6 (usually 6) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 5 (rarely 4 or 6) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 18 or 19 (rarely 17 or 20) segmented rays. **Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 43 to 62 (usually 48 to 62) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 12 to 24 (usually 18 to 22) tubed scales. Circumpeduncular scales 24 to 30 (usually 26 to 28).** Dorsal and anal fins with distinct scaly sheaths. Vertebrae 11+17; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** head and body varying from pale grey to dark grey, olive, or bright red, usually darker dorsally; cheeks and preorbital area usually with blue to dark grey oblique bars; scales of dorsoanterior part of body each with a bluish to black spot; dark spots sometimes coalescing to form stripes along dorsal-fin base or along alternate scale rows on posterior part of body; upper part of body sometimes with a series of white to bright yellow, short, oblique bars; dorsal fin greyish to dark grey or bright red, usually with outer margin blue to dark grey, and with a series of reddish to black rows of spots anteriorly, which align posteriorly to form stripes; females often with spots forming comma-shaped markings; males sometimes with 1 to several large, dark grey to black, horizontally elongate blotches on anterior part of dorsal fin; anal fin brownish or bluish to dark grey or red, usually with 3 to 12 pale stripes and blue to dark grey outer margin; caudal fin bluish to bright red or black with blue to black margin.

Size: Maximum total length 22 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits rock and coral reefs in various habitats, from tidal pools and lagoonal reefs to reef slopes, often in relatively silty areas, to depths of at least 20 m. Frequently enters the aquarium fish trade, and has been bred in captivity.

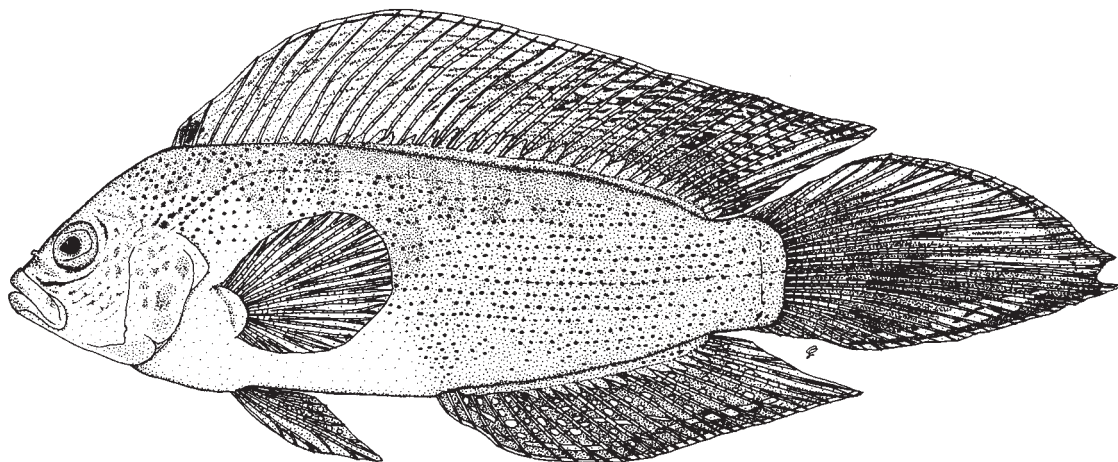
Distribution: Widely distributed throughout the Indo-Malaysian Archipelago, from southern Japan south to the Northwest Shelf of Australia, and east to New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.



Ogilbyina queenslandiae (Saville-Kent, 1893)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / *Dampiera longipinna* Ogilby, 1908; *Pseudochromis novaehollandiae* Steindachner, 1879; *P. veliferus* Lubbock, 1980.

FAO names: En - Queensland dottedback.

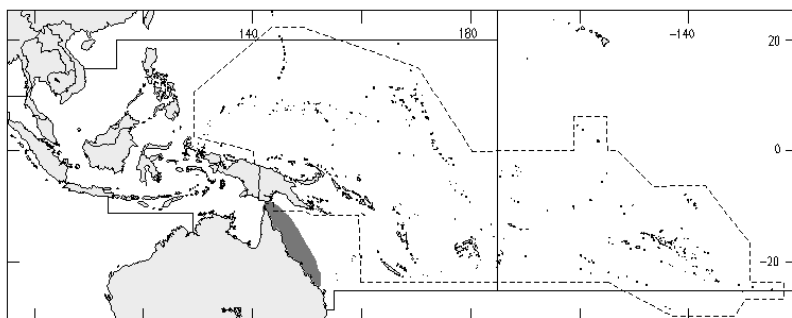


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep to deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 32 to 36% standard length. Lower lip uninterrupted at symphysis. Vomerine teeth small, arranged in a broad, triangular patch. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 16 to 20 (usually 18 or 19), of which 5 to 8 (usually 6 or 7) on upper limb, and 11 to 13 (usually 12) on lower limb. Dorsal fin with III (rarely IV) slender spines and 32 to 37 (usually 34 to 36) mostly unbranched, segmented rays. Anal fin with III slender spines and 18 to 21 (usually 19 or 20) segmented rays. Caudal fin usually rounded to spade-shaped, often with posterior margin truncate or irregular, the upper part with 6 (rarely 7) procurent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 5 (rarely 6) procurent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 18 to 20 (usually 19) segmented rays. Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 38 to 50 (usually 40 to 45) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 4 to 18 (usually 10 to 14) tubed scales. Circumpeduncular scales 24 to 26. Dorsal and anal fins with distinct scaly sheaths. Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 2. **Colour:** males with head and anterior part of body reddish, often with short dark bars extending from beneath anterior part of dorsal fin, the posterior part of body olive to dark grey; females brown to dark grey anteriorly, often with short dark bars extending from beneath anterior part of dorsal fin, and reddish posteriorly, with area above anal fin bright yellow to orange; dorsal, anal, and caudal fins similar to adjacent body coloration, often with blue or red stripes and/or spots, and irregular yellow markings on caudal fin.

Size: Maximum total length 15 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits rocky and coral reefs in various habitats, including tidal pools, lagoon areas, and reef slopes, at depths ranging to 15 m. Frequently enters the aquarium fish trade, and has been bred in captivity.

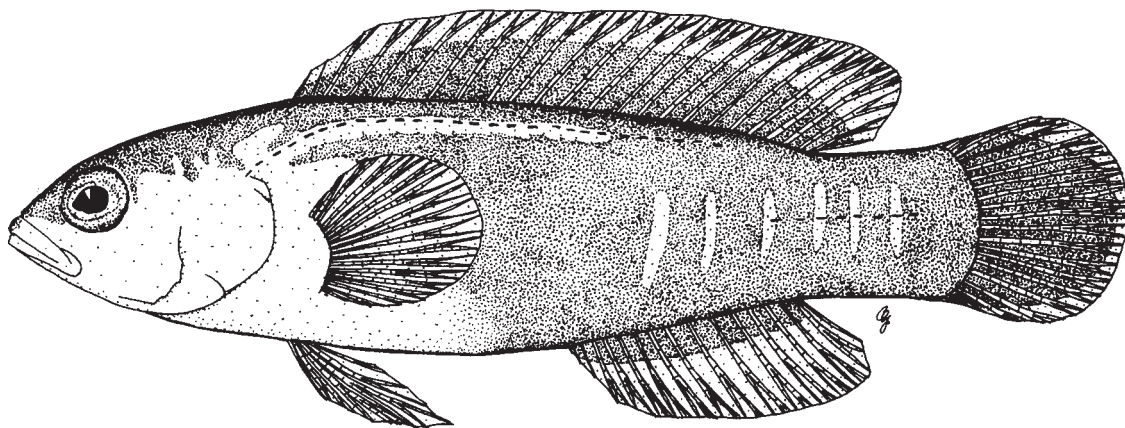
Distribution: Great Barrier Reef and adjacent coast of Queensland, Australia.



***Pseudochromis cyanotaenia* Bleeker, 1857**

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pseudochromis kikai* Aoyagi, 1941 / *Pseudochromis tapeinosoma* Bleeker, 1853.

FAO names: En - Bluebarred dottyback.

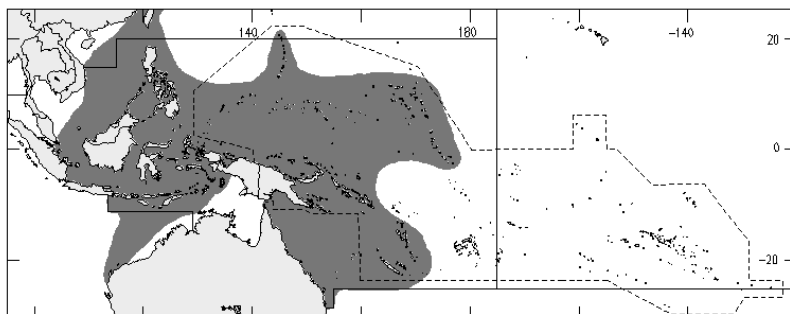


Diagnostic characters: Body relatively slender; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 25 to 28% standard length. **Lower lip either uninterrupted at symphysis, or with weak interruption only.** Vomerine teeth relatively large, arranged in a chevron. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 13 to 16, of which 3 to 5 on upper limb, and 10 or 11 (rarely 9 or 12) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III slender spines (anterior spine easily overlooked) and 22 (rarely 21 or 23) mostly branched, segmented rays.** **Anal fin with III slender spines (anterior spine easily overlooked) and 13 (rarely 12) mostly branched, segmented rays.** Caudal fin rounded, the upper part with 7 or 8 (rarely 6) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 6 or 7 (rarely 8) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 17 to 19 (rarely 16 or 20) segmented rays. **Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays.** **Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 24 to 31 (usually 25 to 29) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 6 to 11 tubed scales.** **Circumpeduncular scales 16.** Dorsal and anal fins without distinct scaly sheaths. Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** females and juveniles with head and body brownish to greyish brown, paler ventrally on head and breast, sometimes becoming reddish on caudal peduncle; dorsal and anal fins greyish basally and clear on outer parts; caudal fin yellowish grey to bright orange-red basally, becoming bright yellow to clear posteriorly; **males with lower part of head and lower part of body anterior to about middle of pectoral fins yellowish grey to bright yellow; scales of ascending portion of anterior lateral line and of scale row beneath horizontal portion of anterior lateral line yellowish grey to bright yellow; remainder of head and body dark grey to black,** often with bluish or greenish sheen, and sometimes with several short, bluish grey to bright blue bars above anal fin and on caudal peduncle; dorsal, anal, and caudal fins dark grey to black basally, with remainder of fin pale blue to clear.

Size: Maximum total length 6.5 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Inhabits various reef habitats, including tidal pools, lagoonal patch reefs, and reef slopes, at depths ranging to 30 m; usually most abundant in high current or surge areas. Frequently enters the aquarium fish trade, and has been bred in captivity.

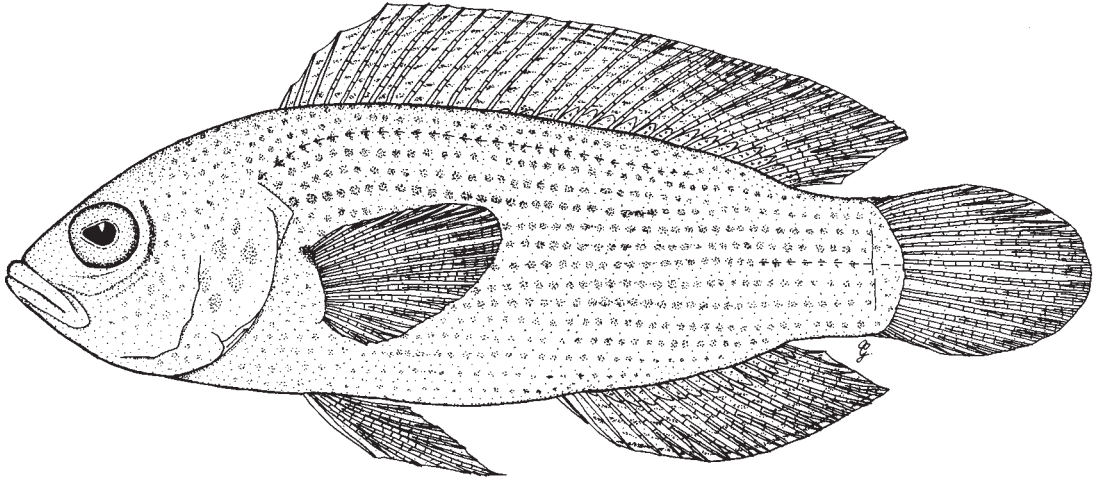
Distribution: Peninsular Malaysia north to Hong Kong and the Ryukyu Islands, south to Western Australia, and east to Vanuatu and the Gilbert Islands.



Pseudochromis fuscus (Müller and Troschel, 1849)

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pseudochromis aureus* Seale, 1910; *P. xanthochir* Bleeker, 1855 / *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849); *L. lineatus* (Castenau, 1875).

FAO names: En - Brown dottyback.

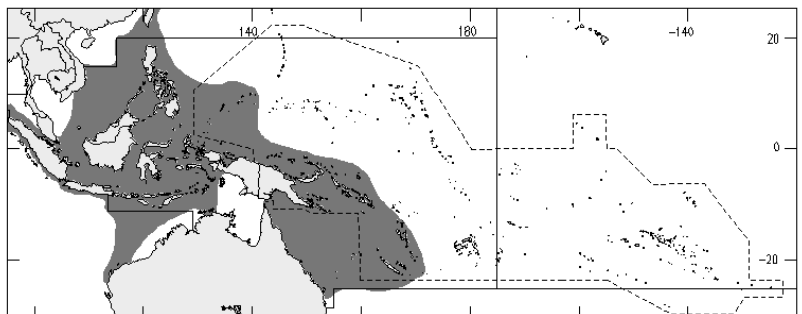


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep to deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 30 to 36% standard length. **Lower lip interrupted at symphysis.** Total gill rakers on first gill arch 17 to 21 (rarely 16), of which 5 to 7 (rarely 8 or 9) on upper limb, and 12 to 14 (rarely 11 or 15) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III relatively stout spines and 25 to 29 (usually 26 or 27) segmented rays, usually with at least some anterior rays unbranched. Anal fin with III stout spines and 14 (rarely 13 or 15) segmented rays.** Caudal fin rounded to truncate or emarginate, the upper part with 6 or 7 (rarely 5) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 5 or 6 (rarely 4 or 7) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 18 or 19 (rarely 17 or 20) segmented rays. **Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 17 to 36 (usually 25 to 33) tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 4 to 14 (usually 6 to 11) tubed scales. Circumpeduncular scales 20 (rarely as few as 16 or as many as 23). Dorsal and anal fins with weakly to strongly developed scaly sheaths.** Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3. **Colour:** bright yellow to dark grey, usually with blue spots on nape and at least anterior part of body; upper part of body and dorsal fin sometimes abruptly yellow; caudal peduncle and fin sometimes abruptly pale.

Size: Maximum total length 9 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Known from a variety of reef habitats, from tidal pools and shallow lagoon reefs, to outer reef slopes, at depths ranging to 30 m. Usually found in association with branching corals (e.g. *Acropora* and *Pocillopora*). Sometimes enters the aquarium fish trade.

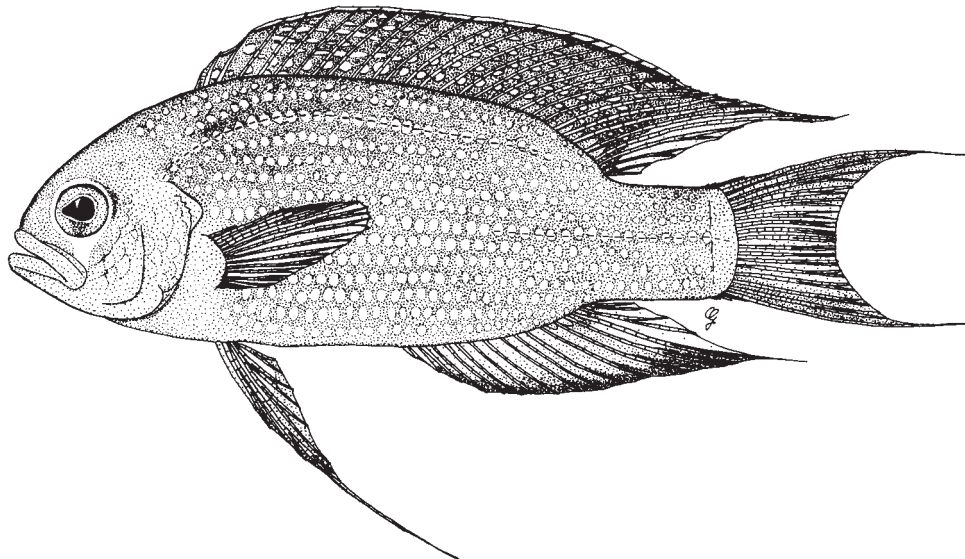
Distribution: Sri Lanka east to Vanuatu, north to at least Hong Kong and the Ryukyu Islands, and south to the central coast of Western Australia and the southern Great Barrier Reef.



Pseudochromis polynemus Fowler, 1931

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Threadfinned dottyback.

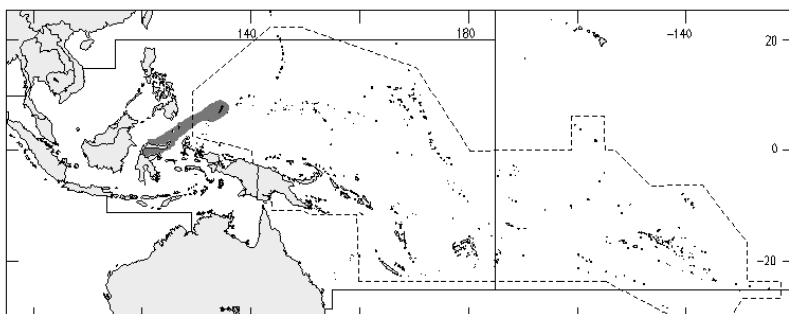


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep to deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 32 to 36% standard length. **Lower lip interrupted at symphysis.** Total gill rakers on first gill arch 17 or 18, of which 4 or 5 on upper limb, and 12 or 13 on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III relatively stout spines and 27 to 29 mostly unbranched, segmented rays.** **Anal fin with III stout spines and 14 or 15 segmented rays.** **Caudal fin emarginate to lunate,** the upper part with 6 procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 6 procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 16 to 18 segmented rays. **Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays.** **Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 27 to 32 tubed scales extending from gill opening, and a peduncular series of 8 to 17 tubed scales.** **Circumpeduncular scales 16.** Dorsal and anal fins usually with indistinct scaly sheaths posteriorly. Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** head and body brownish to bluish grey, paler ventrally, with scales of cheek, operculum and body excluding dorsal contour of nape each with a large, central dull yellow to bright orange spot; spots becoming paler ventrally on body and tending to coalesce to form stripes; **pale yellow to bright yellow ring around orbit, ending ventrally in short broad bar, which extends behind and below posterior edge of upper jaw;** dorsal and anal fins grey with series of white to yellow spots, and posterior part of fins abruptly white or clear; caudal fin bluish grey basally, becoming clear or whitish posteriorly; pectoral fins clear; pelvic fins white to grey with large bright yellow to bright red spot basally.

Size: Maximum total length 10.5 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Occurs around corals and rocks on reef slopes and dropoffs in depths of 2 to 50 m, often in association with large sponges. Of considerable potential as an aquarium fish.

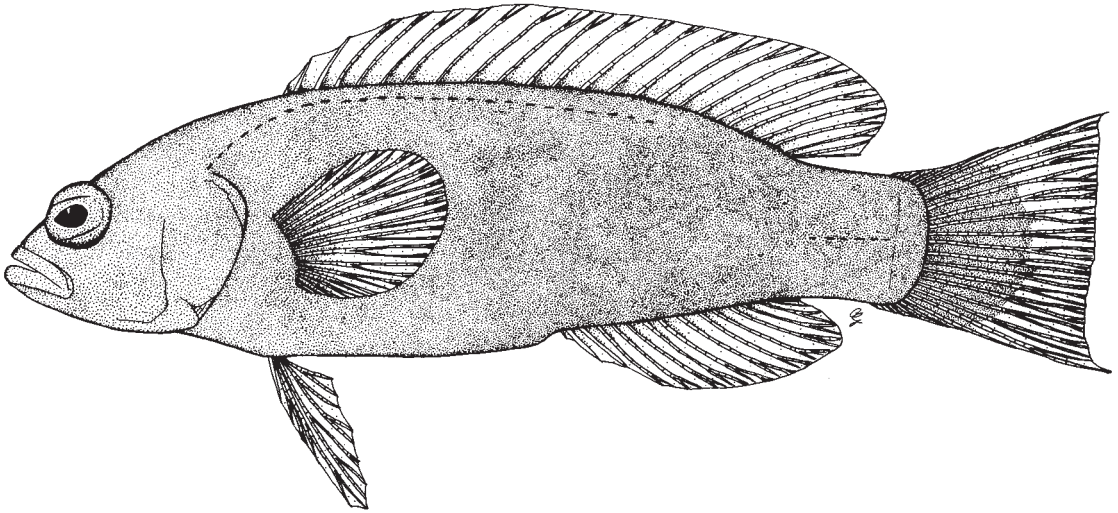
Distribution: Currently known only from northern Sulawesi and Belau.



Pseudochromis porphyreus Lubbock and Goldman, 1974

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: None / None.

FAO names: En - Strawberry dottyback.

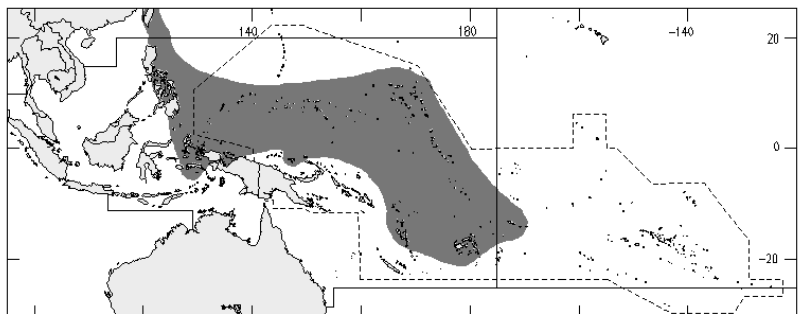


Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 27 to 32% standard length. **Lower lip interrupted at symphysis. Total gill rakers on first gill arch 19 to 22** (rarely 18 or 23), of which 5 to 8 on upper limb, and 13 to 16 on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with III spines and 22** (rarely 21) mostly branched, segmented rays. **Anal fin with III spines and 12** (rarely 10 or 11) mostly branched, segmented rays. Caudal fin truncate to emarginate, the upper part with 6 or 7 (usually 6) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 6 (rarely 5 or 7) procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 16 to 18 (rarely 19) segmented rays. Pelvic fins with I spine and 5 branched, segmented rays. **Lateral line disjunct, consisting of an anterodorsal series of 19 to 28 (usually 21 to 25) tubed scales extending from gill opening**, and a peduncular series of 0 to 10 tubed scales. **Circumpeduncular scales 16** (rarely 18). **Dorsal and anal fins without distinct scaly sheaths.** Vertebrae 10+16; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** head and body reddish purple to magenta; basal parts of dorsal and anal fins pink to magenta, the outer parts clear; basal and central part of caudal fin magenta, the remainder of fin clear, giving rounded appearance to fin.

Size: Maximum total length of captured specimens about 6.5 cm; aquarium specimens known to grow to at least 8 cm total length.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Lives in small caves and among rubble and coral on reef slopes and dropoffs at depths ranging from 3 to 65 m. This species and 2 of its close relatives (*Pseudochromis diadema* and *P. paccagnellae*) are popular aquarium fishes.

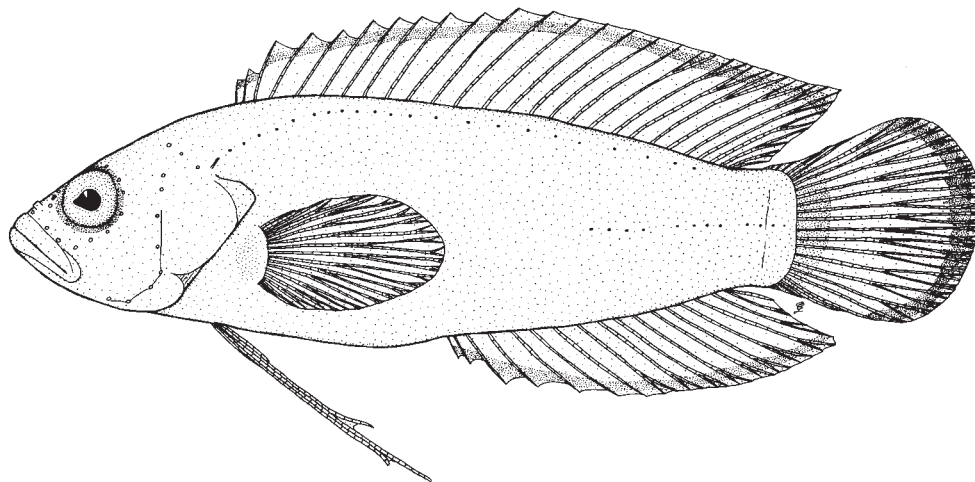
Distribution: Central and western Pacific, from the Ryukyu Islands south to eastern Indonesia, and east to American Samoa.



Pseudoplesiops typus Bleeker, 1858

Frequent synonyms / misidentifications: *Pseudoplesiops sargenti* Schultz, 1953 / None.

FAO names: En - Ringeyed dottyback.



Diagnostic characters: Body moderately deep; distance from dorsal-fin origin to pelvic-fin origin 27 to 32% standard length. **Lower lip uninterrupted at symphysis.** Total gill rakers on first gill arch 11 to 16 (usually 12 to 14), of which 2 to 4 (usually 3 or 4) on upper limb, and 9 to 12 (usually 9 or 10) on lower limb. **Dorsal fin with II slender spines (easily overlooked) and 24 (rarely 25 or 26) mostly unbranched, segmented rays.** Anal fin with II or III spines (easily overlooked) and 14 to 16 (usually 15) mostly unbranched, segmented rays. Caudal fin rounded, the upper part with 4 (rarely 5) procurrent rays and 9 principal rays, the lower part with 3 or 4 procurrent rays and 8 principal rays. Pectoral fins with 16 to 18 segmented rays. **Pelvic fins with I spine and 4 unbranched, segmented rays.** **Lateral line represented by a single tubed scale at gill opening,** followed by an intermittent series of centrally pitted scales extending beneath base of dorsal fin, and a second intermittent series of centrally pitted scales on caudal peduncle; **transverse scale rows from upper edge of gill opening to base of caudal fin 33 to 39.** **Circumpeduncular scales 20 (rarely 19 or 22).** **Predorsal scales 10 to 16, extending anteriorly to about midway between dorsal-fin origin and posterior edge of eye.** Dorsal and anal fins without distinct scaly sheaths. **Posterior body scales ctenoid in small specimens, becoming cycloid in specimens larger than about 3.5 cm standard length, with distinct centres and radii in all fields.** Vertebrae 11+17 to 18; supraneural (predorsal) bones 3, of approximately equal size. **Colour:** head and body pale bluish grey to pale yellow or bright pink; **narrow red to dark grey or black ring around eye;** dorsal, anal, and caudal fins similar to body coloration, often with blue or red edging on fins; pectoral fins clear; pelvic fins pale blue to white.

Size: Maximum total length 7 cm.

Habitat, biology, and fisheries: Cryptic inhabitant of coral reefs, in depths ranging from 1 to at least 30 m. Of some potential as an aquarium fish.

Distribution: Indonesia and the Philippines south to the Northwest Shelf of Australia, and east to the Marshall and Solomon islands.

