

***Pseudogramma xanthum*, a new replacement name for a serranid fish from the subtropical South Pacific Ocean with description of the species**

JOHN E. RANDALL¹, CAROLE C. BALDWIN² & JEFFREY T. WILLIAMS²

¹ Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, HI 96817-2704, USA

² Division of Fishes, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560-0159, USA

Abstract

The subtropical South Pacific serranid fish *Pseudogramma australis* Randall & Baldwin, 1997, was divided by Randall & Baldwin (1997) into two subspecies, *P. a. pasquensis* from Easter Island (type locality of *P. australis*) and *P. a. australis* from the Pitcairn Islands to Tonga. The latter is now regarded as a valid species, distinct in its yellow ground color, small size, modally one more dorsal, anal, and pectoral rays, 16 instead of 17 caudal vertebrae, larger head, and other proportional differences. Because of errors in the type designations for the two subspecies, the name *P. australis* is occupied by the Easter Island species and does not apply to the western Pacific *P. a. australis*. We provide a new replacement name, *P. xanthum* nomen novum, for *P. a. australis* and redescribe it based on the 12 known specimens, including the holotype from Temoe Atoll, Tuamotu Archipelago.

Key words: Serranidae, *Pseudogramma australis*, *P. xanthum*, redescription.

Introduction

Randall & Baldwin (1997) revised the fishes of the subtribe Pseudogrammina (Serranidae: Epinephelinae: Grammistini) and described five new Indo-Pacific species in the genus *Pseudogramma*. The description of one of these, *P. australis*, was based on specimens from Easter Island (first recorded as *Pseudogramma* sp. by Randall & Cea Egaña, 1984), Pitcairn Island, Gambier Group of the Tuamotu Archipelago, Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, and Ofolanga Island of the Ha'apai Group in Tonga.