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Checklist of the species of the Indo–Pacific fish family Pseudochromidae

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Abstract

A checklist of the fishes belonging to the family Pseudochromidae is presented. The list includes 195 nominal species, of which 156 are valid. The species are grouped into 24 genera and 6 subfamilies. About 45% of the species belong to the genus *Pseudochromis*. *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849) is here formally treated as *nomen protectum*.

Key words: Checklist, dottybacks, distribution, endemic, Pseudochromidae, valid species

Introduction

Pseudochromidae are marine, small, reef-associated, and often cryptic fishes, usually under 11 cm in length, although some species can reach 50 cm.. They are found only in the tropical Indo-Pacific. Nelson (1994) counted 16 genera with at least 98 species in 4 subfamilies. Many new species have been described in recent times, so that Gill and Senou (2002) hypothesized that there were about 150 species, the majority of which are Pseudochrominae (Gill, 2004). Nelson et al. (2016) have suggested the presence of 152 species in 24 genera, but a list of species was never compiled. The cumulative number of described species against time is biphasic (Fig.1): from 1835 to 1975, new species were described at a rate of 1 species every 3 years, whereas from 1976 to the present time two new species per year have been described. This checklist includes 156 species, grouped in 24 genera. The species added are: *Pseudochromis stellatus* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2017, *Pseudochromis yamasakii* Gill and Senou, 2016, *Pseudoplesiops occasus* Fujiwara and Motomura, 2025, and *Pseudoplesiops umbrosus* Fujiwara, Gill, Endo, Shibukawa and Motomura, 2025. A checklist of species in a family is an invaluable tool as it serves to consolidate our level of knowledge and reveals areas in need of further investigation

(Parenti and Randall, 2000). Moreover, due to their cryptic behavior, several species have been described from few specimens, sometimes only from the holotype (e.g., *Pseudochromis kolythrus*, *Halidesmus socotraensis*). As a consequence, the distribution of these species might be wider than that reported here. The use of ichthyocides and Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) for diving has greatly increased museum collections of these small, cryptic reef fishes, but much of this material remains unidentified. This paper represents the last work devoted to the project of preparing checklists of fishes of economically important families of marine fishes (Parenti and Randall, 2020; Parenti, 2019a, 2019b; Parenti, 2020; Parenti, 2021a, 2021b). Therefore, the primary objective of the present study is to provide an updated account of the species composition of Pseudochromidae. The family has significant economic value, driven almost entirely by the global marine aquarium trade and commercial aquaculture (e.g., *Pictichromis diadema*, *P. paccagnellae*, and *P. porphyrea*) and these activities have also contributed to the discovery of new species (e.g., *Pholidochromis cerasina*).

Material and Methods

The checklist was assembled by consulting Eschmeyer's Catalog of Fishes (Fricke et al., 2026) and FishBase (Froese and Pauly, 2026) databases through 31 March 2026 (Fig. 1); type information was verified directly from the original publications

and museum catalogues; valid and synonymous names were assessed based on the cited bibliography as well as the compiled geographic distributions. Recently described species were identified by examining original publications. Museum abbreviations were those reported in the Catalog of Fishes (Fricke and Eschmeyer, 2026).

Results

The species are listed alphabetically within each subfamily (Anisochrominae, Assiculinae, Assiculoidinae, Congrogadinae, Pseudochrominae, and Pseudoplesiopinae) and genus. A short diagnosis is given for each subfamily, and a recent reference is given for each species to support its validity according to our present knowledge.

Infraclass Teleostei Müller, 1845

Division Acanthopterygii Artedi in Houttuyn, 1764

Subdivision Percomorphaceae Wiley and Johnson, 2010

Series Ovalentaria Smith and Near in Wainwright et al., 2012

Order Blenniiformes Bleeker, 1860

Family Pseudochromidae Müller and Troschel, 1849

(Dottybacks)

Subfamily Anisochrominae Smith, 1954

(Anisochromin dottybacks)

Western Indian Ocean on reefs and in pools. Diagnosis: dorsal fin with one weak spine; pelvic fin with one spine and three branched and one simple soft ray inserted distinctly in front of the pectoral fin base; pectoral fin rays 13–15; single lateral line along the base of the dorsal fin; naked head and no palatine teeth. They are protogynous hermaphrodites. One genus with three species.

Genus *Anisochromis* Smith

Anisochromis Smith, 1954: 298 (type species, *Anisochromis kenyae* Smith, 1954 by original designation).

Indian Ocean; three species.

***Anisochromis kenyae* Smith, 1954**

Anisochromis kenyae Smith, 1954: 300, Fig. 1; Pl. 6 (type locality, Malindi, Kenya). Holotype: SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 149. Paratypes: SAIAB 148 (1), 854–857 (68, 3, 2, 2); USNM 216415 [ex RUSI 854] (6).

Distribution: East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, northern Mozambique) east to Comoros and northern Madagascar (Gill, 2022).

***Anisochromis mascarenensis* Gill and Fricke, 2001**

Anisochromis mascarenensis Gill and Fricke, 2001: 197, Figs. 1, 9–11 (type locality, Reef lagoon, 11 kilometeres southwest of Saint-Paul [21°04'40"S, 55°13'16"E], L'Hermitage-les-Bains, Les Filaos, Réunion). Holotype: SMNS 23037. Paratypes: BMNH 2001.3.8.2 (1); BPBM 16277 (1); MNHN 2000-0494 (1); SMNS 20933 (2), 21025 (4); USNM 364534 (1).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: endemic to La Réunion and Mauritius (Gill, 2022).

***Anisochromis straussi* Springer, Smith and Fraser, 1977**

Anisochromis straussi Springer, Smith and Fraser, 1977: 2, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Sw. Indian Ocean, about 2 mi. east of Raphael I. on inside edge of reef top, St. Brandon's Shoal). Holotype: USNM 216462. Paratypes: AMNH 35892 (6); BMNH 1976.8.24.1–10 (10); CAS 37640 (15); SAIAB 862 (2); USNM 215859 (25, 1 c and s), 216463-66 (19, 1, 3, 2).

Distribution: Endemic to St. Brandon's Shoals (Gill, 2022).

Subfamily Assiculinae Gill, 2013 (Bluespotted dottyback)

Previously included in Pseudochrominae on the basis of symplesiomorphic characters. The subfamily Assiculinae is cladistically defined by an autapomorphy consisting of 1–5 prominent serrations on the opercle ventral to its junction with the subopercle. The subfamily is readily identified from other pseudochromids by the following combination of external characters: dorsal-fin rays III, 22–24 (usually III, 23); anal-fin rays III, 12–14 (usually III, 13); upper and lower procurrent caudal-fin rays 4–5 (usually 5) and 3–5 (usually 4), respectively, total caudal-fin rays 25–27 (usually 26); pelvic-fin rays I, 5, all segmented rays branched; lateral line represented by an anterodorsal and a posterolateral series of tubed scales; circumpeduncular scales 17–21; dorsal and anal fins without distinct scale sheaths; and lower lip complete. A single species.

Genus *Assiculus* Richardson

Assiculus Richardson, 1846: 482 (type species, *Assiculus punctatus* Richardson, 1846 by monotypy).

Similar habitat to that of *Assiculoides* but over a greater depth range (0–31 m) from Shark Bay to Northern Territory and Wellesley Islands, Queensland. One species.

***Assiculus punctatus* Richardson, 1846**

Assiculus punctatus Richardson, 1846: 494, Pl. 2 (fig. 1) (type locality, coast of Australia). Holotype (unique): HMG 2.5" spirit specimen (whereabouts unknown).

Pseudochromis muelleri Klunzinger, 1879: 370 (type locality, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia). Holotype: SMNS 2579 (lost).

Cichlops filamentosus MacLeay, 1881: 570 (type locality, Darwin, Northern Terr., Australia). Syntypes: (several) AMS I.16326-001 [ex MAMU F497 in part] (7), I.16326-002 [ex MAMU F497 in part] (2), I.18388-001 [ex AMS I.16326-001] (1).

Distribution: Shark Bay, western Australia to Gulf of Carpentaria.

Comment: Synonymies from Gill (2004).

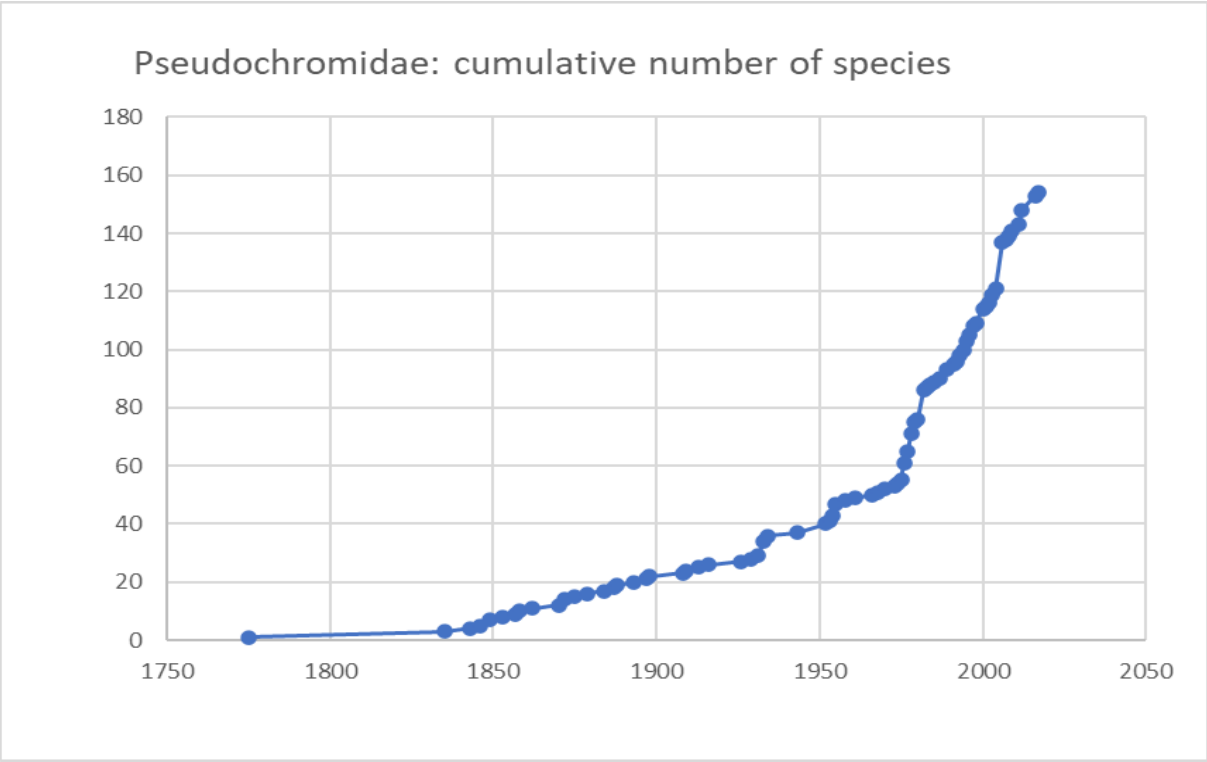


Figure 1: Cumulative number of valid species descriptions of the present checklist.

Subfamily Assiculoidinae Gill, 2013 (Bondfin dottyback)

Previously included in Pseudochrominae based on symplesiomorphic characters. They possess a reduced number of infraorbital bones (typically five or fewer), a haemal spine of the second preural vertebra that is fully attached to the centrum, parhypural bones that are fused with or not separate from the first and second hypural plates, and a reduced total number of caudal-fin rays (27 or fewer). One genus with a single species. The Assiculoidinae is cladistically diagnosed by the following three autapomorphies: anteroventral scale rows on posterior part of body and caudal peduncle oriented almost vertically, dorsal fin connected to caudal fin by membrane and hypural 5 reduced in size or absent:

Genus *Assiculoides* Gill and Hutchins

Assiculoides Gill and Hutchins, 1997: 43 (type species, *Assiculoides desmonotus* Gill and Hutchins, 1997 by original designation).

Shallow, muddy reef and seagrass habitats of the Kimberley coast and adjacent islands, Western Australia. One species.

***Assiculoides desmonotus* Gill and Hutchins, 1997**

Assiculoides desmonotus Gill and Hutchins, 1997: 45, Figs. 1–6 (type locality, Vansittart Bay, reef flat to east of Long Island, 13°59'S, 126°20'E, Western Australia, 0.1–0.3 m). Holotype: WAM P.31085-009. Paratypes: BMNH 1996.10.29.8–11 (4); BPBM 37392 (1); CSIRO H 4427–01 (1); NTM S.14381–001 (1); QM I.30763 (1); ROM 70516 (1); SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 53924 (1); USNM 343601 (1); WAM P.30321-021 (9), P.30898-008 (7), P.30908-003 (1), P.30910-009 (6), P.30916-008 (1), P.30929-008 (10, 2 c and s), P.31078-006 (6), P.31084-003 (2), P.31085-037 (5), P.31097-021 (2).

Subfamily Congrogadinae Günther 1862 (Eelblennies, snakelets)

Coral reefs of the continental margin of the Indo-West Pacific. Found also on gravel and mud bottoms in the intertidal zone to about 140 m, they feed on crustaceans, and larger specimens also feed on small fishes. Diagnosis: body elongate to eel-like; dorsal fin with 0–2 spines; anal fin without spines; caudal fin with no more than 12 branched rays and confluent with the dorsal and anal fins or slightly separated; pelvic fins jugular or absent; mouth protractile; gill membranes united; opercle with a strong, caudally directed spine on the upper margin; one to three lateral lines; egg surface with cruciform hooks, a character unique to this subfamily. Congrogadins are usually small fishes, but one species is reported to reach 50 cm. Eight genera and 24 species. Previously regarded as a blennioid or trachinoid family, it has been reclassified as a subfamily of Pseudochromidae by Godkin and Winterbottom (1985).

Genus *Blennodesmus* Günther

Blennodesmus Günther, 1872: 667 (type species, *Blennodesmus scapularis* Günther, 1872 by monotypy).

Monotypic.

***Blennodesmus scapularis* Günther, 1872**

Blennodesmus scapularis Günther, 1872: 667, Pl. 67 (fig. A) (type locality, Port Mackay, Queensland, Australia). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1871.9.13.222.

Distribution: Andaman Sea and the northern half of Australia.

Genus *Congrogadus* Günther

Machaerium Richardson, 1843: 176 (type species, *Machaerium subducens* Richardson, 1843 by monotypy; preoccupied by *Machaerium* Holliday, 1832 in Diptera, Dolichopodidae).

Congrogadus Günther, 1862: 388 (type species, *Machaerium subducens* Richardson, 1843; replacement name for *Machaerium* Richardson).

Stenophus Castelnau, 1875: 26 (type species, *Stenophus marmoratus* Castelnau, 1875 by subsequent designation).

Congrogadoides Borodin, 1933: 141 (type species, *Congrogadoides spinifer* Borodin, 1933 by monotypy).

Pilbaraichthys Gill, Mooi, and Hutchins, 2000: 71 (type species, *Congrogadus winterbottomi* Gill, Mooi, and Hutchins, 2000 by original designation; proposed as a subgenus of *Congrogadus*).

Australia to the Gulf of Thailand and Indonesia northward to Taiwan. Six species, inhabiting coarse sand bottoms with weed, sponge, and large shell fragments or coral reefs among crevices, rocks, or coral rubble, sometimes in brackish conditions (*C. subducens*). Synonymies were established by Kottelat (2013).

***Congrogadus amplimaculatus* (Winterbottom, 1980)**

Congrogadoides amplimaculatus Winterbottom, 1980: 397, Fig. 1 (type locality, 29 km northeast of the mouth of the Albert R., southern portion of the Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia). Holotype: AMS IB.6931. Paratypes: AMS IB.6933 (1), IB.7170 (1, c and s), I.15557-215 (1), I.15557-290 (1), I.15557-291 (1); CSIRO C 3383 (1), A 2811 (1), ?A 2433 (1); ROM 34748 (1).

Distribution: Southern Gulf of Carpentaria (northern Australia) and Aru Islands, Indonesia.

Comment: A valid species according to Gill et al. (2000).

***Congrogadus hierichthys* Jordan and Richardson, 1908**

Congrogadus hierichthys Jordan and Richardson, 1908: 285, Fig. 11 (type locality, Cuyo, Philippines). Holotype: CAS-SU 20208. Paratypes: USNM 61684 (1).

Distribution: Known only from the Sulu Sea, Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Congrogadus malayanus* (Weber, 1909)**

Haliophis malayanus Weber, 1909: 145 (type locality, Jedan I., Aru Is., Arafura Sea, Indonesia, 13 m). Syntypes: ZMA 112577 (8).

Distribution: Aru Islands, Indonesia and Torres Strait, Australia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Congrogadus spinifer* (Borodin, 1933)**

Congrogadoides spinifer Borodin, 1933: 141 (type locality, Broome, Western Australia). Holotype (unique): MCZ 33106.

Distribution: Northern Australia west of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

***Congrogadus subducens* (Richardson, 1843)**

Machaerium subducens Richardson, 1843: 176, Pl. 6 (type locality, Port Essington, Northern Terr., Australia). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1843.6.15.45 (stuffed).

Machaerium nebulatum Bleeker, 1852: 76 (type locality, Singapore). Holotype (unique): RMNH 6721.

Machaerium reticulatum Bleeker, 1853: 734 [type locality, Marawang (in freshwater); Lepar Island, Indonesia (in seawater)]. Syntypes: (2) RMNH 6720 (1).

Stenophus marmoratus Castelnau, 1875: 27 (type locality, Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia). Holotype (unique): MNHN A-6717.

Stenophus obscurus Castelnau, 1875: 27 (type locality, Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, Australia). Holotype (unique): MNHN A-6716.

Hierichthys encryptes Jordan and Fowler, 1902: 744, Fig. 1 (Myiako Island, Ryukyu Islands, Japan). Holotype (unique): CAS-SU 7120.

Distribution: Andaman Sea east to the Philippines, north to the Ryukyu Islands, south to northern Australia (Shark Bay and Queensland).

Comment: Synonymies are based on Kottelat (2013).

***Congrogadus winterbottomi* Gill, Mooi, and Hutchins, 2000**

Congrogadus (*Pilbaraichthys*) *winterbottomi* Gill, Mooi, and Hutchins, 2000: 74, Figs. 1–7 (type locality, Middle Mangrove Island, Western Australia). Holotype: WAM P.31582-001. Paratypes: AMS I.38770–001 (2); BMNH 1999.9.21.1–3 (3), 1999.9.21.4–5 (2, c and s); CSIRO H 5237-01 (1); MPM 32574 (5); NTM S.14970-001 (1); QM I.31415 (1); ROM 71992 (2); SAMA F9302 (1); USNM 358035 (1); WAM P.31013-046 (2), P.31017-022 (3), P.31018-012 (4), P.31582-002 (2).

Distribution: Known from the type locality and the Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia. Found in tidal pools in limestone reefs with *Sargassum* and mainly on sandy and muddy bottoms (Gill et al., 2000).

Genus *Halidesmus* Günther

Halidesmus Günther, 1872: 668 (type species, *Halidesmus scapularis* Günther, 1872 by monotypy).

Porogrammus Gilchrist and Thompson, 1916: 57 (type species, *Porogrammus capensis* Gilchrist and Thompson, 1916 by monotypy).

Pholioides Nielsen, 1961: 253 (type species, *Pholioides thomaseni* Nielsen, 1961 by original designation).

Tentaculus Rao and Dutt, 1966: 455 (type species, *Tentaculus waltairiensis* Rao and Dutt, 1966 by original designation).

Indian Ocean. The genus has been revised by Winterbottom (1982), recognizing three species, but two species have been added in recent times (*H. coccus* and *H. socotraensis*). Five species are therefore listed here. These species are found in intertidal pools and marginal subtidal areas.

***Halidesmus coccus* Winterbottom and Randall, 1994**

Halidesmus coccus Winterbottom and Randall, 1994: 753, Figs. 4–5 (type locality, Rocky pools at the west side of Rahah Bay, 16°57'N, 54°49'E, south coast, Oman, 0–2 m). Holotype: BPBM 35447. Paratypes: BPBM 35734 (7), ROM 66324 (5).

Distribution: Endemic to southern Oman (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halidesmus polytretus* Winterbottom, 1982**

Halidesmus polytretus Winterbottom, 1982: 755, Figs. 2B, 3, 6 (type locality, 22.5 km north of Malindi, Kenya). Holotype: LACM 30695-13. Paratypes: LACM 30695-29 (1, c and s and dissected).

Distribution: Off Kenya (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halidesmus scapularis* Günther, 1872**

Halidesmus scapularis Günther, 1872: 668, Pl. 67 (fig B) (type locality, Port Elizabeth, Natal, South Africa [purchased]). Syntypes: BMNH 1871.4.21.26-27 (2).

Porogrammus capensis Gilchrist and Thompson, 1916: 57, Fig. (type locality, Simons Bay and False Bay, South Africa). Syntypes: (3).

Distribution: Coffee Bay to False Bay, South Africa (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halidesmus socotraensis* Gill and Zajonz, 2003**

Halidesmus socotraensis Gill and Zajonz, 2003: 54, Figs. 2–4 (Southwestern coast of Abd al-Kuri Island, about 12°13'N, 52°04'E, Socotra Archipelago). Holotype: SMF 29223. Paratypes: BMNH 2002.1.19.3 (1), ROM 72697 (1), SMF 29293 (3).

Distribution: Socotra Archipelago, western Indian Ocean, endemic (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halidesmus thomaseni* (Nielsen, 1961)**

Pholioides thomaseni Nielsen, 1961: 253, Fig. 1 (type locality, Rockpools, Karachi, Pakistan). Holotype: ZMUC P75394. Paratypes: ZMUC P75395–98 (4).

Tentaculus waltairiensis Rao and Dutt, 1966: 455, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Rock pool at Waltair, Bay of Bengal, e. coast of India, 17°45'N, 83°22'E). Holotype: ZMAU. Paratypes: ZMAU (3)

Distribution: Pakistan and northwestern and northeastern India.

Comment: Synonyms are according to Gill (2022).

Genus *Halimuraena* Smith

Halimuraena Smith, 1952: 92 (type species, *Halimuraena hexagonata* Smith, 1952 by original designation).

Western Indian Ocean. Three species, found on limestone and coral reefs (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halimuraena hexagonata* Smith, 1952**

Halimuraena hexagonata Smith, 1952: 92, Fig. 2A; Pl. 6 (figs. A-C) (type locality, Baixo Pinda, Mozambique). Holotype: SAIAB. Paratypes: BMNH 1952.10.21.9–10 (2), SAIAB 863–870 (35, 17, 21, 3, 1, 1, 10, 23).

Distribution: Kenya, Mozambique, and southwestern Madagascar.

***Halimuraena lepopareia* Winterbottom, 1980**

Halimuraena lepopareia Winterbottom, 1980: 400, Fig. 2 (type locality, Sw. end of Pamanzi I., Comoro Is., Indian Ocean, 12°48'24"S, 45°17'42"E). Holotype: USNM 218850. Paratypes: BMNH 1978.10.20.1–2 (2), CAS 41792 (2), ROM 34749 (1), USNM 218851 (13, 2 c and s).

Distribution: Pamanzi Island, Comoros to Nossi-Bé, northern Madagascar.

***Halimuraena shakai* Winterbottom, 1978**

Halimuraena shakai Winterbottom, 1978: 49, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Off Sodwana Bay, Kwazulu, South Africa, 27°31'S, 32°41'E, 12.8 m). Holotype: SAIAB 904. Paratypes: BMNH 1977.1.10.1 (1); SAIAB 905 (6), 906 (5), 907 (2, c and s), 908 (3), 909 (3), 910 (1); USNM 216604 (1).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) and Mozambique east to Comoros and Mascarenes (Mauritius).

Genus *Halimuraenoides* Maugé and Bardach

Halimuraenoides Maugé and Bardach, 1985: 381 (type species, *Halimuraenoides isostigma* Maugé and Bardach, 1985 by original designation).

One species, found on limestone, crevices, and rocky reefs (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Halimuraenoides isostigma* Maugé and Bardach, 1985**

Halimuraenoides isostigma Maugé and Bardach, 1985: 382, Fig. 4 (type locality, Tuléar, w. coast of Madagascar). Holotype: MNHN 1985–0240. Paratypes: MNHN 1985-0241 (16), ROM 46134 (2), USNM 269769 (1).

Distribution: Southwestern tip of Madagascar.

Genus *Haliophis* Rüppell

Haliophis Rüppell, 1829: 49 (type species, *Muraena guttata* Forsskål, 1775 by monotypy).

Red Sea to Indonesia; genus revised by Winterbottom (1985b) with one species (*Haliophis diademus*) added later on; three species living on reefs, to about 15 m deep.

***Haliophis aethiopus* Winterbottom, 1985**

Haliophis aethiopus Winterbottom, 1985: 210, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Off Alit's Beach Bungalows, Sanur, 8°41'S, 115°16'E, Bali, Indonesia, 0.7 m). Holotype: BPBM 20920. Paratypes: ROM 38419.

Distribution: Bali east to Alor Islands, Indonesia.

***Haliophis diademus* Winterbottom and Randall, 1994**

Haliophis diademus Winterbottom and Randall, 1994: 751, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Mhalah, 17°5.7'N, 55°7.4'E, south coast, Oman, 8 m). Holotype: BPBM 35448. Paratypes: ROM 67739 (1).

Distribution: Southern Oman.

***Haliophis guttatus* (Forsskål, 1775)**

Muraena guttata Forsskål in Niebuhr, 1775: 22, x (type locality, Jidda [Jeddah], Saudi Arabia, Red Sea). No types known.

Muraena maculata Lacepède, 1800: 265. Unnecessary replacement name for *Muraena guttata* Forsskål, 1775.

Distribution: Red Sea to Socotra, Mozambique, Mascarenes, and southwestern coast of Madagascar.

Genus *Natalichthys* Winterbottom

Natalichthys Winterbottom, 1980: 2 (type species, *Natalichthys ori* Winterbottom, 1980 by original designation).

South Africa. Three species, two of which (*N. leptus* and *N. ori*) are known only from few specimens collected at about 90 m of depth (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Natalichthys leptus* Winterbottom, 1980**

Natalichthys leptus Winterbottom, 1980: 8, Fig. 3 (type locality, Umhlangankulu R., Natal, 30°04'10"S, 30°21'47"E, South Africa). Holotype: SAM 28938. Paratypes: SAM 28939 (1).

Distribution: Umhlangankulu River (Natal, South Africa).

***Natalichthys ori* Winterbottom, 1980**

Natalichthys ori Winterbottom, 1980: 3, Fig. 1 (type locality, off Umhlangankulu River, Natal, 30°04'10"S, 30°21'47"E, South Africa). Holotype: SAM 17340. Paratypes: SAM 28993 (1).

Distribution: Umhlangankulu River, Natal, South Africa.

***Natalichthys sam* Winterbottom, 1980**

Natalichthys sam Winterbottom, 1980: 6, Fig. 2, (type locality, off Port Shepstone, s. coast of Natal, 30°47'06"S, 30°29'06"E, South Africa, 44 m). Holotype: SAM 21915. Paratypes: SAM 28940 (1).

Distribution: Port Shepstone, southern Natal, South Africa.

Genus *Rusichthys* Winterbottom

Rusichthys Winterbottom, 1979: 298 (type species, *Rusichthys plesiomorphus* Winterbottom, 1979 by original designation).

Western Indian Ocean. Two relatively rare species (Winterbottom and Santini, 2022).

***Rusichthys explicitus* Winterbottom, 1996**

Rusichthys explicitus Winterbottom, 1996: 582, Fig. 1, Northeast of Hoon's Bay, Caly's Reef, rock cleft, Oman, 27 m. Holotype: BPBM 35886. Paratypes: ROM 1555CS (1, c and s), 68794 (1).

Distribution: Southern Oman.

***Rusichthys plesiomorphus* Winterbottom, 1979**

Rusichthys plesiomorphus Winterbottom, 1979: 299, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, off Kenya, 2°42'S, 40°53'E, southwestern Indian Ocean, Anton Bruun cr. 8, sta. 420a, 140 m). Holotype: USNM 218163. Paratypes: USNM 218164 (1, c and s).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean off Kenya.

Subfamily Pseudochrominae Müller and Troschel, 1849 (Basslets; Dottybacks)

Marine; tropical Indo-Pacific. These fishes are characterized by pelvic fins with one spine and five branched, segmented rays; lateral line divided into an anterodorsal and a midpeduncular series of tubed scales; haemal spine of preural vertebra 2 autogenous; teeth on palatine. Monophyly of the group remains to be demonstrated. Dottybacks are usually solitary and secretive, spending much of their time hidden from view and some of them can be seen only after flushing with ichthyocides. Many are colorful and display various color-phases, especially between sexes. Females lay a spherical mass of eggs that is guarded by the male. They feed on small benthic invertebrates. Maximum length is about 19 cm. Nelson (1994) estimated a number of 60 species. Owing to their cryptic habits this group was poorly known until recently. Over the past 20 years many new species have been discovered and described (e.g.: Gill, 2004; Allen et al., 2008a, b; Gill and Allen, 2011; Gill et al., 2017; Fujiwara et al., 2025) bringing the total number of species to 98. The subfamily has been revised by Anthony Gill (Gill, 2004).

Genus *Cypho* Myers

Nesiotes De Vis, 1884: 453 (type species, *Nesiotes purpurascens* De Vis, 1884 by monotypy; preoccupied by *Nesiotes* Martens 1860 in Mollusca, Wollaston 1861 in Coleoptera, and Stål, 1873 in insects).

Cypho Myers, 1940: 35 (type species, *Nesiotes purpurascens* De Vis, 1884 replacement name for *Nesiotes*).

Australia. Two species, inhabiting reef slopes and reef surge channels, in or near holes of coral and rocky reefs.

***Cypho purpurascens* (De Vis, 1884)**

Nesiotes purpurascens De Vis, 1884: 453, (type locality, Vila, Vanuatu [New Hebrides]). Neotype: FMNH 17340. Possible holotype: QM I.1351 (1 of 2). Neotype designated by Herre 1936:165.

Pseudochromis mccullochi Myers, 1932: 30 (type locality, Vanuatu [New Hebrides]. Holotype (unique): AMS IA.798.

Pseudochromis mccullochi perpulcher Whitley, 1959: 313 (type locality, Heron I., Capricorn Group, Queensland, Australia). Holotype: AMS IB.3996 (lost).

Distribution: Great Barrier Reef, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, New Guinea, Admiralty Islands, Fiji Islands, and Tonga (Gill, 2004).

***Cypho zaps* Gil, 2004**

Cypho zaps Gill, 2004:20, Figs. 8–10; Pl. 1G (type locality, White Beach, Batan Island, Philippines). Holotype: USNM 291625. Paratypes: AMS I.39543-001 (4); ANSP 163457 (6); ASIZT P.057275 (1), P.057276 (2); BMNH 1999.12.30.1 (1), 1999.12.30.2 (1); BPBM 34228 (1); NSMT-P 46416 (1); SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 34979 (1); USNM 290945 (1), 291601 (9), 291602 (3), 291626 (2), 291627 (3), 293355 (1), 304577 (7), 339204 (1).

Distribution: Southern Japan (Okinawa) to northern Indonesia.

Genus *Labracinus* Schlegel

Cichlops Müller and Troschel, 1849: 24 (type species, *Cichlops cyclophthalmus* Müller and Troschel, 1849 by monotypy; preoccupied by *Cichlops* Hodgson 1844 in Aves).

Cichlopsis Schlegel, 1857: 121 (misspelling; preoccupied by *Cichlopsis* Cabanis 1851 in Aves)

Labracinus Schlegel, 1858: 121 (type species, *Cichlops cyclophthalmus* Müller and Troschel, 1849 by monotypy).

Dampieria Castelnau, 1875: 30 (type species, *Dampieria lineata* Castelnau, 1875 by monotypy).

West Pacific. Three species, found in shallow coral and rocky reefs (Gill, 2004).

***Labracinus atrofasciatus* (Herre, 1933)**

Dampieria atrofasciatus Herre, 1933: 17 (type locality, Culion Island, Philippines). Holotype (unique): CAS-SU 25518.

Distribution: Calamian Islands and Palawan, Philippines.

***Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849)**

Julis horsfieldii Valenciennes in Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1839: 486 (type locality, Thailand; Java, Indonesia). No types known.

Cichlops cyclophthalmus Müller and Troschel, 1849: 24, Pl. 4 (fig. 1) (type locality, Sunda Sea, Indonesia). Syntypes: ZMB 639 (1) Sunda Sea, 31723 (1) Sulawesi.

Cichlops melanotaenia Bleeker, 1852: 765 (type locality, Makasar [Ujung Pandang], Sulawesi [Celebes], Indonesia). Holotype (unique): RMNH 5967.

Cichlops spilopterus Bleeker, 1853: 168 (type locality, Makasar [Ujung Pandang], Sulawesi [Celebes], Indonesia). Holotype (unique): RMNH 5966.

Cichlops hellmuthii Bleeker, 1854: 329 (type locality, Larantuka, Flores Island, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): RMNH 5999.

Cichlops trispilos Bleeker, 1855: 110 (type locality, Sahu, Halmahera Island, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): MNHN A-8849.

Cichlops japonicus Gill, 1859: 147 (type locality, Japan). Holotype (unique): USNM 135673.

Cichlops melanotaenia var. *altera* Bleeker, 1875: 8 (type locality, Toboali, Bangka; Makassar, Sulawesi, Indonesia). Syntypes: whereabouts unknown.

Dampieria melanostigma Fowler, 1931: 16, Figs. 2–3 (type locality, Langao Point, Luzon I., Philippines). Holotype: USNM 89989. Paratypes: ANSP 101790 (1), USNM 146416-23 (4, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1).

Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean and western Pacific: Indonesia east to New Ireland (Papua New Guinea), north to Kagoshima Prefecture (southern Japan), south to north-western Australia.

Comments: Examination of the color slides of paintings of wrasses from the Central Library in Paris revealed that *J. horsfieldii* is an unused senior synonym of *L. cyclophthalmus* (Gill and Randall, 1999: 95). However, Gill and Randall did not apply Article 23.9 (reversal of precedence) to place *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* as *nomen protectum.* This step is performed here. Although *Julis horsfieldii* Valenciennes is evidently a senior synonym of *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849), both conditions required to allow "prevailing usage" of the latter name, as provided by Article 23.9.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), are met: (1) *Julis horsfieldii* has not been used as valid since 1899 (Article 23.9.1.1) and (2) *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* has been used as a valid name in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors during the past 50 years, and encompassing a span of not less than ten years (Article 23.9.1.2). *Labracinus cyclophthalmus* (Müller and Troschel, 1849) is thus regarded as valid, qualifying it as *nomen protectum*, while the name *Julis horsfieldii* Valenciennes, 1839 is recognized as invalid, qualifying it as *nomen oblitum*. For evidence that the conditions of Article 23.9.1.2 have been met, the following list of works is given (Kailola, 1987; Sano et al., 1984; Allen, 1997; Nakabo, 2000; Randall and Lim, 2000; Werner and Allen, 2000; Iwatsuki et al., 2000; Kuiter and Tonozuka, 2001; Hutchins, 2001; Allen and Adrim, 2003; Hardy, 2003; Adrim et al., 2004; Gill,

2004; Hoese et al., 2006; Luna and Mancao, 2006; Nguyen and Nguyen, 2006; Ho and Shao, 2011; Allen and Erdmann, 2012; Larson et al., 2013; Koeda et al., 2016; Dewa et al., 2022; Balisco et al., 2023; Motomura et al., 2010; Ito et al., 2021; Garces et al., 1995).

***Labracinus lineatus* (Castelnau, 1875)**

Dampieria lineata Castelnau, 1875: 30 (type locality, Dampier Archipelago, Western Australia). Holotype (unique): MNHN B-2361 (dry).

Dampieria ocellifera Fowler, 1946: 130, Fig. 4 (type locality, Aguni Shima, Ryukyu Is., Japan). Holotype: ANSP 72005. Paratypes: ANSP 72006–07 (2).

Dampieria ignita Scott, 1959: 75, Fig. 1 (type locality, Shark Bay, Western Australia). Holotype (unique): SAMA F2997.

Distribution: Western Australia endemic (Froese and Pauly, 2026)

Genus *Manonichthys* Gill

Manonichthys Gill, 2004: 33 (type species, *Pseudochromis splendens* Fowler, 1931, type by original designation).

West Pacific: seven species (Gill, 2004; Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Manonichthys alleni* Gill, 2004**

Manonichthys alleni Gill, 2004: 34, Figs. 14–15; Pls. 2 D-E (type locality, edge of reef 3 kilometers north of Manabuan Island, 4°39'N, 118°46'E, Bodgaya Islands, Sabah, northern Borneo). Holotype: WAM P.30415-004. Paratypes: WAM P.30406–009 (1); USNM 290317 (1), 306719 (1, c and s), 339259 (1).

Distribution: Northeastern Borneo and Mindanao, Philippines. Found in caves and under ledges of coastal fringing reefs, also inhabiting the tubular, siliceous sponge *Callyspongia aerizusa* of the class Demospongiae (Bos and Smits, 2013).

***Manonichthys jamali* Allen and Erdmann, 2007**

Manonichthys jamali Allen and Erdmann, 2007: 542, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Northwestern side of Pulau Tumbu Tumbu, 4°19.386'S, 133°30.026'E, Irian Jaya Barat Province, Indonesia). Holotype: NCIP 6318. Paratypes: BPBM 40507 (2), CAS 224635 (2), NICP 6319 (2), USNM 389145 (2), WAM P.32854-001.

Distribution: West Papua, Indonesia, inhabiting frequently dense thickets of staghorn *Acropora* corals, encrusting layers of *Galaxea* corals, or rocky debris. Occasionally observed entering the demospongian *Callyspongia* (Allen and Erdmann, 2024, Froese and Pauly, 2026).

***Manonichthys paranox* (Lubbock and Goldman, 1976)**

Pseudochromis paranox Lubbock and Goldman, 1976: 60, Fig. 2 (type locality, Sandfly Passage, south side of Biki I., near nw. end of Florida I., British Solomon Is., 20 m). Holotype: AMS I.18244-001. Paratypes: AMS I.18244-002 (1), BMNH 1975.2.12.4 [1, ex AMS].

Distribution: Papua New Guinea, northern Great Barrier Reef and Solomon Islands. Found in or near holes or among corals and rocky reefs on slopes and drop-offs (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Manonichthys polynemus* (Fowler, 1931)**

Pseudochromis polynemus Fowler, 1931: 38, Fig. 5 (type locality, Limbe Strait, north of Sulawesi [Celebes]). Holotype (unique): USNM 89992.

Distribution: Philippines to Indonesia and Palau; inhabits steep outer reef slopes, in areas with dense coral growth (Lieske and Myers, 1994).

***Manonichthys scintilla* Gill and Williams, 2011**

Manonichthys scintilla Gill and Williams, 2011: 54, Figs. 5–6 (type locality, Apo Reef, southern tip on outer reef, Mindoro Province, Philippines). Holotype: PNM 15176 [ex USNM 382743]. Paratypes: ASU 19100 (1, c and s), FMNH 120315 (2), USNM 382744 (1).

Distribution: Calamian Islands and Palawan, Philippines. Found in outer reefs and lagoons (Froese and Pauly, 2026).

***Manonichthys splendens* (Fowler, 1931)**

Pseudochromis splendens Fowler, 1931: 35 (type locality, Doworra Island, Indonesia). Holotype: USNM 89991.

Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean to Scott Reef in Western Australia, including southern and eastern Indonesia where it prefers drop–offs, usually close to sponges and corals (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Manonichthys winterbottomi* Gill, 2004**

Manonichthys winterbottomi Gill, 2004: 42, Figs. 14–15, 17 (type locality, North side of North Baio Bay near main channel, Cebu Strait, Philippines). Holotype: ROM 52857. Paratypes: BMNH 1979.1.9.32-35 (4, 1 c and s).

Distribution: Cebu endemic, Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Genus *Ogilbyina* Fowler

Ogilbyina Fowler, 1931: 5, 19 (type species, *Dampieria longipinnis* Ogilby, 1908 by original designation).

Klunzingerina Fowler, 1931: 21, 33 (type species, *Pseudochromis novaehollandiae* Steindachner, 1879 by original designation; proposed as a subgenus of *Pseudochromis*).

Great Barrier Reef and Australia, found in holes and crevices of rocky and coral reefs. Three species (Gill, 2004).

***Ogilbyina novaehollandiae* (Steindachner, 1879)**

Pseudochromis novaehollandiae Steindachner, 1879: 160 (type locality, Port Davis (Port Denison), New Holland). Holotype (unique): SMNS 1859.

Dampieria longipinnis Ogilby, 1908: 34 (type locality, Bowen, Queensland, Australia). Holotype: QM I.781.

Distribution: Bowen to Capricorn Group, southern Great Barrier Reef.

***Ogilbyina queenslandiae* (Saville-Kent, 1893)**

Polyacanthus queenslandiae Saville-Kent, 1893: 308, Color Pl. 16 (fig. 8) (type locality, Adolphus I., Torres Strait, Cape York). Neotype: AMS I.20770-119. Neotype designated by Gill 2004:49.

Distribution: Great Barrier Reef from Adolphus Island to Capricorn Group.

***Ogilbyina salvati* (Plessis and Fourmanoir, 1966)**

Pseudochromis salvati Plessis and Fourmanoir, 1966: 227, Fig. (type locality, Maître islet, Nouméa, New Caledonia). Holotype (unique): MNHN 1966-0736.

Distribution: New Caledonia.

Genus *Oxycercichthys* Gill

Oxycercichthys Gill, 2004: 51 (type species, *Pseudochromis veliferus* Lubbock, 1980 by original designation).

One species; found around rock and coral formations on sandy bottoms (Gill et al., 2006)

***Oxycercichthys veliferus* (Lubbock, 1980)**

Pseudochromis veliferus Lubbock, 1980: 831, Fig. 5 (type locality, North Point, Lizard I., Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia, 15 m). Holotype: BMNH 1979.1.9.36. Paratypes: AMS I.15682–022 (1); BMNH 1979.1.9.37–38 (2), 1979.1.9.39–40 (2); BPBM 22523 (1); MHNG 2023.69 (1); USNM 219403 (1).

Distribution: Great Barrier Reef from Lizard Island to One Tree Island. Found around rock and coral formations on sandy bottoms (Froese and Pauly, 2026)

Genus *Pholidochromis* Gill

Pholidochromis Gill, 2004: 53 (type species, *Pseudochromis marginatus* Lubbock, 1980, by original designation).

Two species living among soft and hard corals and sponges of the Indo-Australian Archipelago.

***Pholidochromis cerasina* Gill and Tanaka, 2004**

Pholidochromis cerasina Gill and Tanaka, 2004: 18, Fig. 1 (type locality, Talisei [= Talisse], Sulawesi, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): USNM 136954.

Distribution: Sulawesi, Indonesia, and Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Pholidochromis marginata (Lubbock, 1980)

Pseudochromis marginatus Lubbock, 1980: 829, Fig. 4 (type locality, Madang harbor, opposite end of Sek I., Papua New Guinea). Holotype: AMS I.17087-009. Paratypes: AMS I.16671-043 (1), BMNH 1979.1.9.14 (1), BPBM 15762 (1).

Distribution: Northern Sulawesi, Indonesia; Madang and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Genus *Pictichromis* Gill

Pictichromis Gill, 2004: 55 (type species, *Pseudochromis porphyreus* Lubbock and Goldman, 1974, by original designation).

Eight species living above coral or rubble and steep outer reef slopes or in reefs characterized by numerous small caverns and crevices of the West Pacific.

***Pictichromis aurifrons* (Lubbock, 1980)**

Pseudochromis aurifrons Lubbock, 1980: 824, Fig. 2 (type locality, East side of Basilisk passage, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 25 m). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1979.1.9.12.

Distribution: Port Moresby and Dumoulin Islands; endemic to Papua New Guinea (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pictichromis caitlinae* Allen, Gill and Erdmann, 2008**

Pictichromis caitlinae Allen, Gill and Erdmann, 2008: 147, Figs. 2–4 (Rumberpon Village, 3°53.757'S, 134°06.738'E, Cenderawasih Bay, Papua Barat Province, Indonesia). Holotype: NCIP 6325. Paratypes: USNM 390774 (3), WAM P.32890-001 (3).

Distribution: Cenderawasih Bay, West Papua, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pictichromis coralensis* Gill, 2004**

Pictichromis coralensis Gill, 2004: 59, Fig. 22; Pl. 4A (type locality, Lihou Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Australia). Holotype: AMS I.20779-174. Paratypes: AMNH 211953 (3); AMS I.15684-018 (1), I.17466-019 (1), I.18204-001 (1), I.18277-001 (1), I.20206-036 (2), I.20779-229 (1), 22508-004 (1), I.22580–004 (4), I.22613-008 (3, 1 c and s), I.22620-010 (3), I.22637-015 (1), I.22640-003 (1), I.25107-009 (7), I.25112-021 (2); BMNH 1933.8.12.28 (1), 1983.3.25.192–193 (2), 1983.3.25.194 (1), 1983.3.25.196.(1); NTM S.10552-007 (1); ROM 72057 (16); QM I.16046 (1); WAM P.29638-006 (1).

Distribution: Southern and western Coral Sea, including the Great Barrier Reef (Randall and Schultz, 2009)

***Pictichromis diadema* (Lubbock and Randall, 1978)**

Pseudochromis diadema Lubbock and Randall, 1978: 37, Fig. 1 (type locality, Pulau Tulai, near Pulau Tioman, W. Malaysia, 15 m). Holotype: BPBM 20854. Paratypes: BMNH 1978.5.31.1 (1).

Distribution: Western Philippines, Peninsular Malaysia, and Sabah (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pictichromis dinar* Randall and Schultz, 2009**

Pictichromis dinar Randall and Schultz, 2009: 173, Figs. 4–5 (type locality, Western side off Parigi,

0.495°S, 120.10°E, Gulf of Tomini, Sulawesi, Indonesia). Holotype: BPBM 40976. Paratypes: AMS I.44801-001 (1); MZB 17173 (1); USNM 395097 (1); WAM P.33078-001 (1).

Distribution: Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Comment: Future research might reveal this species as a synonym of *P. paccagnellae* (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pictichromis ephippiata* (Gill, Pyle and Earle, 1996)**

Pseudochromis ephippiatus Gill, Pyle and Earle, 1996: 98, Fig. 1 (type locality, Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea, 10°14'30"S, 150°57'18"E, 30 m). Holotype: BPBM 37006. Paratypes: BPBM 36978 (1).

Distribution: South-eastern Papua New Guinea and Sulawesi (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pictichromis paccagnellae* (Axelrod, 1973)**

Pseudochromis paccagnellae Axelrod, 1973: 5, Figs. (type locality, Indonesia, aquarium specimen without specific locality). Holotype: USNM 208481. Paratypes: USNM 208482 (6).

Distribution: Rowley Shoals to Great Barrier Reef and Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Comment: Reported in literature as *Pseudochromis paccagnellorum* and *Pictichromis paccagnellorum* based on a proposed correction as the species was named after the Paccagnella family.

***Pictichromis porphyrea* (Lubbock and Goldman, 1974)**

Pseudochromis porphyreus Lubbock and Goldman, 1974: 107, Pl. 1 (type locality, Ishigaki I., Yaeyama Is., s. Ryukyu Is., Japan, 6–20 m). Holotype: BPBM 8737. Paratypes: AMS I.17191-001 (1); BMNH 1973.5.15.1 (1); BPBM 9919 (2), 9928 (13), 11317 (3); USNM 210325 (1).

Distribution: Southern Japan to eastern Indonesia, Marshall Islands and Samoa (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Genus *Pseudochromis* Rüppell

Pseudochromis Rüppell, 1835: 8 (type species, *Pseudochromis olivaceus* Rüppell, 1835 by subsequent designation).

Labristoma Swainson, 1839: 230 (type species, *Pseudochromis olivaceus* Rüppell, 1835, unneeded replacement name for *Pseudochromis* Rüppell).

Leptochromis Bleeker, 1875: 14 (type species, *Pseudochromis melanotaenia* Bleeker, 1875 by subsequent designation; proposed as a subgenus of *Pseudochromis*).

Onar De Vis, 1885: 875 (type species, *Onar nebulosum* De Vis, 1885 by monotypy).

Malacocanthus Tickell in Day, 1888: 791 (type species, *Malacocanthus cocinicauda* Tickell in Day, 1888 by original designation)

Bartschina Fowler, 1931: 5, 18 (type species, *Dampieria bitaeniata* Fowler, 1931 by original designation; proposed as a subgenus of *Dampieria*).

Devisina Fowler, 1931: 20, 26 (type species, *Pseudochromis quinquedentatus* McCulloch, 1931 by original designation; proposed as a subgenus of *Pseudochromis*).

Synonymies from Gill (2004). Seventy-two species are listed here.

***Pseudochromis aldabrensis* Bauchot-Bontin, 1958**

Pseudochromis aldabrensis Bauchot-Bontin in Arnault et al., 1958: 80, Fig. 6 (type locality, Aldabra, Island). Holotype (unique): MNHN 1954-0145.

Distribution: Aldabra (Seychelles) and from Kuwait and Oman east to Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka.

***Pseudochromis alticaudex* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis alticaudex Gill, 2004: 76, Figs. 29–30 (Madang Harbour, Bay in Kranket Island, Papua New Guinea). Holotype: AMS I.17089-030. Paratypes: AMS I.17089-047 (10, 2 c and s); BMNH 1974.5.25.960–964 (5), 1974.5.25.965 (1); CAS 65799 (1); NSMT-P 23309 (1); RMNH 20723 (1); USNM 290341 (3), 290609 (1), 290971 (2), 296198 (12); WAM P.24915-002 (2), P.29595-016 (1).

Distribution: Eastern Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis ammeri* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012**

Pseudochromis ammeri Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012: 26, Figs. 1–3 (Pulau Wagmab, 2°00.483'S, 130°38.121'E, Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia). Holotype: MZB 20566. Paratypes: AMS I.45650–001 (2, c and s), I.45650-002 (2); WAM P.31444-001 (1), P.31540–001 (2), P.32949-005 (10), P.32963–002 (3).

Distribution: West Papua, Indonesia and neighboring islands, including Halmahera Island (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis andamanensis* Lubbock, 1980**

Pseudochromis andamanensis Lubbock, 1980: 821, Fig. 1 (type locality, North end of Campbell Bay, Similan I., Similan Is., e. Andaman Sea, 10 m). Holotype: BMNH 1979.1.9.2. Paratypes: AMS I.20692-001 (1); BMNH 1979.1.9.3 (1), 1979.1.9.4-10 (7), 1979.1.9.11 (1); BPBM 22522 (1); MHNG 2023.68 (1); USNM 219402 (1).

Distribution: Andaman Sea, Bali, and Ashmore Reef, Timor Sea (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis aureolineatus* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis aureolineatus Gill, 2004: 80, Fig. 31; Pl. 4H (Moheli, off north-western tip of Chissioua Magnougi, 12°23'30"S, 43°38'20"E, Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros). Holotype: ROM 67394. Paratypes: SAIAB 30719 (2).

Distribution: Comoros endemic (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis aurulentus* Gill and Randall, 1998**

Pseudochromis aurulentus Gill and Randall, 1998: 18 (type locality, northeast of Slawi Bay, off Liu Point, Turo Liu Point, Komodo Island, Indonesia). Holotype: BPBM 36506. Paratypes: WAM P.30957–001 (2).

Distribution: Komodo Island and Bali, Indonesia. Valid species (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis bitaeniatus* (Fowler, 1931)**

Dampieria bitaeniata Fowler, 1931: 18, Fig. 4 (type locality, Galera Bay, Philippines). Holotype: USNM 89990. Paratypes: USNM 144578 (1).

Distribution: Western Australia to Great Barrier Reef, Solomon Islands, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis caudalis* Boulenger, 1898**

Pseudochromis caudalis Boulenger, 1898: 134 (type locality, Karachi, Pakistan). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1898.6.29.75.

Pseudochromis spencei Fowler, 1928: 112, Pl. 1 (type locality, Pools in Back Bay, Bombay, India). Holotype: ANSP 53937.

Pseudochromis ranjhai Klausewitz, 1961: 427, Fig. 1 (type locality, Coast near Karachi, Pakistan). Holotype: SMF 5426. Paratypes: SMF 5427 (3).

Distribution: Sri Lanka to Pakistan and Oman east to Myanmar (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Comment: Synonymies from Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis chrysospilus* Gill and Zajonz, 2011**

Pseudochromis chrysospilus Gill and Zajonz, 2011: 7, Figs. 4–5 (type locality, Southwest coast of Socotra Island, Ras Qatanin Bay, Socotra Archipelago). Holotype: SMF 29234. Paratypes: AMS I.45575-001 (1); NHCY-P 4 (4); SMF 29207 (4), 33400 (3), 33552–57 (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1).

Distribution: Socotra Archipelago endemic, western Indian Ocean (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis coccinicauda* (Tickell, 1888)**

Malacocanthus coccinicauda Tickell in Day, 1888: 791 (type locality, Saddle I., off Kyouk, Phool). No types known.

Malacocanthus bicolor Tickell in Day, 1888, Fishes India, Suppl.: 791 (type locality, Saddle I., off Kyouk, Phool). No types known.

Distribution: Eastern and central Indian Ocean (Maldives and Andaman Islands) to southern Sumatra, Java, and Bali.

Comment: Synonymies from Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis colei* Herre, 1933**

Pseudochromis colei Herre, 1931: 18 (type locality, Culion Island, Philippines). Holotype (unique): CAS-SU 30974.

Distribution: Calamian Islands and Palawan, Philippines (Gill, 2004).

***Pseudochromis cometes* Gill and Randall, 1998**

Pseudochromis cometes Gill and Randall, 1998: 19 (type locality, east of Turo Liu Point, Komodo Island, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): BPBM 31545.

Distribution: Komodo Island (Indonesia) endemic (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis cyanotaenia* Bleeker, 1857**

Pseudochromis cyanotaenia Bleeker, 1857: 72 (type locality, Kajeli, Buru I., Moluccas Is., Indonesia). Syntypes: (2) RMNH 5926 (2 of 6).

Pseudochromis kikaii Aoyagi, 1941: 44, Fig. 2 (type locality, Ryukyu Islands, Japan). Holotype: YCM-P 6886 [ex Okada sp. no. 4000]. Paratypes: (9).

Distribution: Indonesia east to Great Barrier Reef, New Caledonia, Kiribati, and Vanuatu north to Ryukyu Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis dilectus* Lubbock, 1976**

Pseudochromis dilectus Lubbock, 1976: 172, Fig. 2 (type locality, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.238. Paratypes: AMS I.18170-001 (1); BMNH 1973.12.20.239–240 (2), 1973.12.20.242–246 (5), 1975.2.12.1 (1); BPBM 18037 (1); SMF 12991 (1); USNM 212215–16 (2, 1).

Distribution: Sri Lanka endemic (Gill, 2004).

***Pseudochromis dixurus* Lubbock, 1975**

Pseudochromis dixurus Lubbock, 1975: 130, Pl. 1a (type locality, Port Sudan harbor, Red Sea). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.21. Paratypes: BMNH 1973.12.20.22–26 (5), 1973.12.20.27–28 (2); BPBM 16409 (1); HUJ 6761 (1); USNM 211764 (2).

Distribution: Red Sea, Gulf of Aden; Socotra (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Pseudochromis dutoiti* Smith, 1955**

Pseudochromis dutoiti Smith, 1955: 145, Fig. 1 (type locality, North end of Bazaruto Island, 25°30'S, 35°31'E, Mozambique). Holotype: SAIAB 164. Paratypes: SAIAB 795 (7), SMF 9503 (1).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: South Africa, East Africa (Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya), Seychelles and Madagascar east to Pakistan (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis eichleri* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012**

Pseudochromis eichleri Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012: 33, Fig. 5 (type locality, off southeast tip of Galoc Island, 11°57'N, 119°50'E, Calamianes Group, Philippines). Holotype: WAM P.31398-014. Paratypes: AMS I.45651-001 (1); WAM P.32997-001 (1), P.33003–006 (2).

Distribution: Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis elongatus* Lubbock, 1980**

Pseudochromis elongatus Lubbock, 1980: 826, Fig. 3 (type locality, Nw. side of Ambon I., about 2 km east of Sawa Telu, Molucca Is., Indonesia, 0–7.5 m). Holotype: USNM 210273. Paratypes: AMS I.20172-001 (1); BMNH 1979.1.9.13 (1); BPBM 22521 (1); MHNG 2023.70 (1); USNM 210020 (3), 210135 (4).

Distribution: Eastern Indonesia: Sulawesi, Maluku, and West Papua (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis erdmanni* Gill and Allen, 2011**

Pseudochromis erdmanni Gill and Allen, 2011: 58, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Fringing reef, Loloda Selatan, Pulau Taunalu, 1°40.4488'N, 127°31.720'E, Halmahera, North Maluku Province, Indonesia). Holotype: NCIP 6344. Paratypes: AMS I.45740-001 (1); NCIP 6345 (3); WAM P.32911-002 (2), P.33082-002 (1).

Distribution: Maluku and West Papua, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis flammicauda* Lubbock and Goldman, 1976**

Pseudochromis flammicauda Lubbock and Goldman, 1976: 57, Fig. 1 (type locality, One Tree I., Capricorn Group, Great Barrier Reef, Australia). Holotype: AMS I.17445-001. Paratypes: AMS I.15486-036 (1), I.17045-002 (1); BMNH 1975.2.12.3 (1); USNM 214108 (1).

Distribution: Great Barrier Reef (Gill, 2004).

***Pseudochromis flavivertex* Rüppell, 1835**

Pseudochromis flavivertex Rüppell, 1835: 9, Pl. 2 (fig. 4) (type locality, Massawa, Eritrea, Red Sea). Lectotype: SMF 1527. Paralectotypes: SMF 8144 (1). Lectotype selected by Lubbock (1975)

Distribution: Red Sea endemic (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Pseudochromis flavopunctatus* Gill and Randall, 1998**

Pseudochromis flavopunctatus Gill and Randall, 1998: 20 (type locality, islet at 8°31’42” S 119°37’50” E, east coast of Komodo, Indonesia). Holotype: BPBM 31539. Paratypes: AMS I.29534-001 (1, c and s); BPBM 32417 (3), 36507 (3).

Distribution: Komodo Island and Nusa Penida, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis fowleri* Herre, 1934**

Pseudochromis fowleri Herre, 1934: 45 (type locality, Tide pool near Dumaguete, Oriental Negros, Philippines. Holotype (unique): CAS–SU 28510.

Pseudochromis swaini Herre, 1933: 46 (type locality, Reef in Culion Harbor, Culion I., Philippines). Holotype (unique): CAS-SU 26772.

Distribution: Philippines and Northern Borneo (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Comment: Synonymies from Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis fridmani* Klausewitz, 1968**

Pseudochromis fridmani Klausewitz, 1968: 444, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea). Holotype: SMF 9435. Paratypes: HUJ 4744 (3); SMF 9514 (1), 9515 (1), 9517–18 (2).

Distribution: Red Sea endemic (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Pseudochromis fuligifinis* Gill and Williams, 2011**

Pseudochromis fuligifinis Gill and Williams, 2011: 50, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, Verde Island, 13°31.97'N, 121°06.18'E, Mindoro Province, Philippines). Holotype: PNM 15177. Paratypes: AMS I.40141–002 (1); ASU 19098 (1), 19099 (1, c and s); FMNH 120316 (1), 120317 (3); USNM 382745 (2), 383121 (1), 383122 (1).

Distribution: Philippines and Papua New Guinea (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis fuscus* Müller and Troschel, 1849**

Pseudochromis fuscus Müller and Troschel, 1849: 23, Pl. 4 (fig. 2) (type locality, Sulawesi [Celebes], Indonesia). No types known.

Pseudochromis adustus Müller and Troschel, 1849: 23 (type locality, Philippines). Holotype: ZMB 638.

Pseudochromis xanthochir Bleeker, 1855a: 443 (type locality, Manado, Sulawesi [Celebes], Indonesia). Lectotype: RMNH 5959 (58.2 mm). Paralectotypes: (1). Lectotype selected by Bleeker according to Gill (2004).

Onar nebulosum De Vis, 1885: 875 (type locality, Murray Island, Queensland, Australia). Syntypes: AMS I.461 (1), QM I.100.

Pseudochromis wildii Ogilby, 1908: 34 (type locality, Moreton Bay, Queensland, Australia). Holotype (unique): QM I.784.

Pseudochromis aurea Seale, 1910: 528 (type locality, Sitanki I., Jolo Archipelago, Philippines). Paratypes: (numerous) AMS I.31423-001 [ex CAS-SU 28507] (1). Neotype designated by Gill 2004:117. Holotype BMNH 4899 apparently destroyed.

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka to Solomon Islands and Great Barrier Reef and New Caledonia, north and Vanuatu, north to Ryukyu Islands and Ogasawara Islands.

Comment: Synonymy from A. Gill (pers. commun., Kailola, 1987), Paxton et al. (1989) and Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis howsoni* Allen, 1995**

Pseudochromis howsoni Allen, 1995: 83, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Base of outer reef dropoff at ne. corner

of Ashmore Reef, Timor Sea, ca. 12°11'S, 123°07'E, 23 m). Holotype: WAM P.30840–001. Paratypes: WAM P.30840-004 (1).

Distribution: Ashmore Reef (Timor Sea, Indonesia) and Northwest Shelf of Australia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis jace* Allen, Gill and Erdmann, 2008**

Pseudochromis jace Allen, Gill and Erdmann, 2008: 156, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Northwest entrance to Selat Iris, 3°53.757'S, 134°06.638'E, Triton Bay, Papua Barat Province, Indonesia). Holotype: NCIP 6320. Paratypes: USNM 390773 (1), WAM.32891-001 (1).

Distribution: West Papua and Halmahera, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis jamesi* Schultz, 1943**

Pseudochromis jamesi Schultz, 1943: 116, Fig. 10 (type locality, Reef of Rose I., American Samoa). Holotype: USNM 115704. Paratypes: MCZ 37274 [ex USNM 115705] (1); USNM 115705 (orig. 2, now 1), 115743 (1).

Distribution: New Guinea and Great Barrier Reef, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands to New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis kolythrus* Gill and Winterbottom, 1993**

Pseudochromis kolythrus Gill and Winterbottom, 1993, Am. Mus. Novit., No. 3082: 2, Fig. 1 (type locality, Cave in Récif Mbere, north of Passe de Dumbéa, 22°19'10"S, 167°12'45"E, New Caledonia, 18.3–30.5 m). Holotype: ROM 65061.

Distribution: New Caledonia (known only from the holotype; Gill et al., 2009).

***Pseudochromis kristinae* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis natalensis [non Regan, 1916] Lubbock, 1977: 10, pls 1 e and 3f (description and distribution in part; black and white and color figs); Smith, 1986: 541 (description and distribution in part).

Pseudochromis tauberi [non *Pseudochromis tauberae* Lubbock. 1977] Smith, 1980: 176 (Maputaland, South Africa).

Pseudochromis tauberae [non Lubbock, 1977] Smith, 1986: 541, pl. 46 (description and distribution in part; South Africa; color fig.); Lieske and Myers, 1994: pl. 32, fig. 7 (color fig.).

Pseudochromis sp. Heemstra in Smith and Heemstra, 1995: x (description; distribution).

Pseudochromis kristinae Gill, 2004: 126, Fig. 47; Pl. 8E (type locality, Fort Jesus, Mombasa, Kenya). Holotype: BMNH 1975.2.12.19. Paratypes: AMS I.28113-074 (1); BMNH 1975.2.12.14–15 (2), 1975.2.12.16–18 (3), 975.2.12.20–24 (5); BPBM 27335 (1); LACM 31005-45 (4, 1 c and s); MNHN B.2692 (1); ROM 72058 (2), 72059 (2); SAIAB 3610 (1), 7610 (2), 9806 (1), 9933 (1), 46567 (2); SMF 12659 (2); USNM 212281 (6).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: South and East Africa to Comoros and northern Madagascar (Gill, 2004).

***Pseudochromis leucorhynchus* Lubbock, 1977**

Pseudochromis leucorhynchus Lubbock, 1977: 6, Pls. 2B, 3B (type locality, Shela, Lamu, Kenya, 2–8 m). Holotype: BMNH 1975.2.12.7. Paratypes: BMNH 1975.2.12.8–9 (2), BPBM 18038 (1), SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 3703 (1), SMF 12989 (1), USNM 214105 (1).

Distribution: Coasts of Kenya, Somalia, and Gulf of Oman (Eagderi et al., 2026).

***Pseudochromis linda* Randall and Stanaland, 1989**

Pseudochromis linda Randall and Stanaland, 1989: 107, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, E. side of Jana I., Saudi Arabia, Persian Gulf, 2 m). Holotype: BPBM 30487. Paratypes: AMS I.26715–001 (4); BMNH 1973.12.20.29–42 (14), 1973.12.20.44–55 (12); BPBM 30294 (2), 30296 (1), 30299 (1), 31031–33 (8, 5, 10); ROM 40003 (2), 40008 (3), 40016 (1); USNM 285460 (3).

Distribution: Socotra, Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman eastward to Pakistan (Eagderi et al., 2026).

***Pseudochromis litus* Gill and Randall, 1998**

Pseudochromis litus Gill and Randall, 1998: 22 (type locality, east of Turo Liu Point, Komodo Island, Indonesia). Holotype: BPBM 35015. Paratypes: BPBM 32345 (1), 34078 (1), 34562 (1), 37379 (1); CAS 62176 (1).

Distribution: Banda and Flores Sea, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis lugubris* Gill and Allen, 2004**

Pseudochromis lugubris Gill and Allen, 2004: 2, Fig. 1 (type locality, Milne Bay, west of Wahawe Point, 10°16'S, 150°42'42"E, Papua New Guinea). Holotype: BPBM 36253. Paratypes: AMS I.40685-001 (1), BMNH 2001.3.8.1 (1), USNM 364533 (1), WAM P.31355-015 (3 or 7).

Distribution: Papua New Guinea: Milne Bay (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis luteus* Aoyagi, 1943**

Pseudochromis luteus Aoyagi, 1943: 103, Pl. 25 (fig. 1) (type locality, Kikai I., Ryukyu Islands). Holotype (unique): not at YCM, apparently lost.

Distribution: Philippines, Taiwan and Ryukyu Islands, Japan (Koeda et al., 2016; Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis madagascariensis* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis madagascariensis Gill, 2004: 136, Fig. 50 (type locality, Antsiranana, Madagascar). Holotype: MNHN 1966-0066. Paratypes: MNHN 2000-1690 (4).

Distribution: Northern Madagascar endemic (Gill, 2022)

***Pseudochromis magnificus* Lubbock, 1977**

Pseudochromis magnificus Lubbock, 1977: 3, Pls. 1 (A-B), 5 (A-B) (type locality, Sw. side of Raphael I., Cargados Carajos shoals, w. Indian Ocean). Holotype: SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 1901. Paratypes: BMNH 1975.2.12.6 (1); BPBM 18036 (1); SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 1902 (1); USNM 214109 (1), 216137 (6).

Distribution: Saint Brandon's Shoals, (Cargados Carajos) endemic (western Indian Ocean) (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis marshallensis* (Schultz, 1953)**

Pseudochromis aurea marshallensis Schultz in Schultz et al., 1953: 392, Fig. 63 (type locality, Lagoon coral head off Rongelap I., Rongelap Atoll, w. Pacific). Holotype: USNM 140629. Paratypes: FMNH 62619-20 [ex USNM] (1, 1); USNM 140626–28 (2, 5, 3), 140630–38 (18, 1, 3, 1, 3, 2, 6, 4, 7), 140639 (orig. 21, now 20), 140640 (3), 142278 (1).

Distribution: West Pacific: Vietnam east to Marshall Islands, north to southern Japan, south to Indonesia, Australia and New Caledonia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis matahari* Gill, Erdmann and Allen, 2009**

Pseudochromis matahari Gill, Erdmann and Allen, 2009: 46, Fig. 1 (type locality, Halmahera, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): NCIP 6343.

Distribution: Halmahera and West Papua, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis melanurus* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis melanurus Gill 2004: 143, Fig. 34; Pls. 9F-G (type locality, Southwest corner of Malolo Lailai, 17°47'S, 177°13'E, Fiji). Holotype: USNM 257165. Paratypes: AMS I.18361-019 (3); BMNH 1897.8.23.214 (1); ROM 1371CS (3, c and s), 46833 (2); USNM 257167 (13), 329737 (3), 333192 (2), 333894 (1), 334192 (3), 334246 (1), 359488 (7); WAM P.30792-001 (2).

Distribution: Fiji and Tonga (Gill, 2004).

***Pseudochromis melas* Lubbock, 1977**

Pseudochromis melas Lubbock, 1977: 8, Pls. 1D, 3A (type locality, Bottom of reef slope, e. side of Wasin I., Shimoni, Kenya, 15 m). Holotype: BMNH 1975.2.12.5. Paratypes: USNM 214106 (1).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean, Aliwal Shoal and KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa) north to Kenya (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis mooii* Gill, 2004**

Pseudochromis mooii Gill, 2004: 146, Fig. 52 (type locality, Coral reef at Telak Slawi, Komodo Island, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): UF 110839.

Distribution: Komodo and western Sumbawa, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis moorei* Fowler, 1931**

Pseudochromis moorei Fowler, 1931: 39, Fig. 6 (type locality, Sulade Island, Philippines). Holotype: USNM 89993. Paratypes: USNM 144576–77 (1, 1).

Distribution: South-eastern Philippines (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis natalensis* Regan, 1916**

Pseudochromis natalensis Regan, 1916: 167 (type locality, Durban, Natal, South Africa). Holotype (unique): BMNH 1915.7.6.5.

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: Durban, South Africa to Kifuki Island, Mozambique; Kenya and Madagascar (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis nigrovittatus* Boulenger, 1897**

Pseudochromis nigrovittatus Boulenger, 1897: 421 (type locality, Mekran coast, Iran). Lectotype: BMNH 1898.9.22.2. Paralectotypes: BMNH 1897.9.22.3 (1). Lectotype selected by Lubbock (1975).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: eastern part of Persian Gulf and Straits of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman and southern part of it, Djibouti (Eagderi et al., 2026).

Comment: Species occur in two main color forms (with and without the broad, dark brown to dark grey stripe on the side of the body).

***Pseudochromis oligochrysus* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012**

Pseudochromis oligochrysus Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012: 53, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Nusa Penida, Mangrove Point, Indonesia). Holotype: MZB 20567. Paratypes: AMS I.45680-001 (1); WAM P.33099-003 (2), P.33101–002 (2), P.33016-001 (1), P.33399–001 (2).

Distribution: Bali, Nusa Penida and Alor, southern Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis olivaceus* Rüppell, 1835**

Pseudochromis olivaceus Rüppell, 1835: 8, Pl. 2 (fig. 3) (type locality, Red Sea). Lectotype: SMF 436. Paralectotypes: NMW 59957 (1), SMF 9504–06 (3). Lectotype selected by Lubbock (1975).

Distribution: Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Pseudochromis omanensis* Gill and Mee, 1993**

Pseudochromis omanensis Gill and Mee, 1993: 57, Fig. 8 (type locality, Barr al Hikman, Oman, 2 m). Holotype: USNM 324630. Paratypes: CAS 66901 (1), ROM 65741 (1, c and s).

Distribution: Gulf of Oman endemic (Eagderi et al., 2026).

***Pseudochromis persicus* Murray, 1887**

Pseudochromis persicus Murray, 1887: 49 (type locality, Persian Gulf). Lectotype: BMNH 1887.9.22.45. Paralectotypes: BMNH 1887.9.22.46–48 (3), 1974.2.12.1–3 (3). Lectotype selected by Lubbock (1975).

Distribution: Persian Gulf to Pakistan. First recorded from the Mediterranean Sea by Ohayon et al. (2025).

***Pseudochromis perspicillatus* Günther, 1862**

Pseudochromis perspicillatus Günther, 1862: 193 [6], Pl. 27 (fig. C) (type locality, China). Neotype: ADD. Syntypes: (several) BMNH 1848.3.16.96 (1), 1855.9.19.1500 (4). Neotype designated by Gill 2004.

Pseudochromis rex Seale, 1910: 529 (type locality, Sitanki I., Jolo Archipelago, Philippines). Holotype: BSMP 4631 (apparently destroyed). Paratypes: (numerous) BSMP (apparently destroyed).

Pseudochromis simillimus Herre, 1933: 19 (type locality, Culion I., Philippines). Holotype (unique): CAS-SU 25517.

Distribution: Bali (Indonesia) east to Philippines and Papua New Guinea, north to southern China (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Comment: Synonymies from Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis pesi* Lubbock, 1975**

Pseudochromis pesi Lubbock, 1975: 136, Pl. 1d (type locality, Jordan-Saudi Arabia border, Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea, 30 m). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.94. Paratypes: BMNH 1973.12.20.95 (1), BPBM 13402 (2), HUJ 6760 (2), USNM 211771 (11).

Distribution: Endemic to the northern Red Sea, Gulf of Aqaba (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis pictus* Gill and Randall, 1998**

Pseudochromis pictus Gill and Randall, 1998: 24 (type locality, Kebola Bay, Alor Island, Indonesia). Holotype: BPBM 37349. Paratypes: BPBM 37351 (1).

Distribution: Alor Island, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis punctatus* Kotthaus, 1970**

Pseudochromis punctatus Kotthaus, 1970: 52, Fig. 225 (type locality, Coast of Somalia, Indian Ocean, 6°06'N, 49°05'E to 6°03'N, 49°02.8'E, Meteor sta. 123, 55–65 m). Holotype (unique): ZMH 5025 [ex IOES 113].

Pseudochromis melanotus Lubbock, 1975: 157 [replacement name for *Pseudochromis punctatus* Kotthaus 1970, secondarily preoccupied in *Pseudochromis* by *Assiculus punctatus* Richardson 1846, but replacement name considered unnecessary (Art. 59.4)].

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean (off Somalia) to southern Oman (Gill, 2022).

Comment: *Pseudochromis melanotus* is an unneeded replacement as *Assiculus punctatus* Richardson does not belong to *Pseudochromis* (Gill and Randall 1994: 17).

***Pseudochromis pylei* Randall and McCosker, 1989**

Pseudochromis pylei Randall and McCosker, 1989: 8, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Ne. side of Kadola I., 5°21'42"S, 123°46'E, Pulau Pulau Penyu Group, Lucipara Is., Banda Sea, Indonesia, 40 m). Holotype: BPBM 31485. Paratypes: AMS I.28496-001 (1), BMNH 1989.1.12.1 (1), BPBM 32337 (2), CAS 64525 (1), USNM 292810 (1).

Distribution: Indonesia: Flores and Banda Sea to New Britain, Papua New Guinea (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis quinquedentatus* McCulloch, 1926**

Pseudochromis (*Leptochromis*) *quinquedentatus* McCulloch, 1926: 190, Pl. 50 (type locality, Off Cape Capricorn, Queensland, Australia, 12 fms). Holotype: AMS E.6712. Paratypes: AMS IA.1731–33 (1, 1, 1), IA.3238 (1), E.6713 (1).

Distribution: Northern Australia from Gulf of Carpentaria to Capricorn Group. A valid species according to Gill et al. (2012).

***Pseudochromis ransonneti* Steindachner, 1870**

Pseudochromis ransonneti Steindachner, 1870: 562 (type locality, Singapore). Syntypes: NMW 60677 (2), 76581 (5).

Distribution: Malaysia, Singapore and Sumatra east to Philippines. A valid species (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis reticulatus* Gill and Woodland, 1992**

Pseudochromis reticulatus Gill and Woodland, 1992: 248, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Glomar Shoal, 19°32'S, 116°48'E, Western Australia, 80 m). Holotype (unique): NTM S.10821–004.

Distribution: North–western Australia (Gill et al., 2017).

***Pseudochromis rutilus* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012**

Pseudochromis rutilus Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2012: 58, Fig. 4 (type locality, Nusa Penida, Mangrove Point, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): MZB 20568.

Distribution: known only from the type locality but probably more widespread (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis sankeyi* Lubbock, 1975**

Pseudochromis sankeyi Lubbock, 1975: 145, Pl. 2d (type locality, Massawa, Eritrea, Red Sea). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.104. Paratypes: HUJ 6990 (2); USNM 211772–73 (1, 3), 211774 (now 28).

Distribution: Red Sea and western Indian Ocean: East Africa, Gulf of Aden and Socotra (Golani and Fricke, 2026)

***Pseudochromis socotraensis* Gill and Zajonz, 2011**

Pseudochromis socotraensis Gill and Zajonz, 2011: 14, Figs. 10–12 (type locality, North coast of Abd al-Kuri Island, Socotra Archipelago). Holotype: SMF 29200. Paratypes: AMS I.45576–001 (2); BMNH 2011.9.27.1 (1); NHCY-P 5 (10); SMF 29201 (5), 29204 (9), 29226 (3), 29230 (4), 29237 (3), 33401 (3), 33550 (1), 33551 (1); USNM 402766 (4).

Distribution: Known only from Socotra Archipelago, Western Indian Ocean (Gill, 2022).

***Pseudochromis springeri* Lubbock, 1975**

Pseudochromis springeri Lubbock, 1975: 128, Pl. 2a (type locality, Bay at El Himeira, Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea). Holotype: USNM 211761. Paratypes: BMNH 1973.12.20.17–19 (3), 1937.12.20.20 (1); BPBM 13365 (1); HUJ 6758 (2); USNM 211762 (12).

Distribution: Red Sea endemic (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Pseudochromis steenei* Gill and Randall, 1992**

Pseudochromis steenei Gill and Randall, 1992: 42, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, Off Tulamben, Bali, Indonesia, 33 m). Holotype: BPBM 34566. Paratypes: BPBM 31982 (1); NTM S.11035–001 (1), S.11336–002 (1); USNM 321933 (1).

Distribution: Bali, Komodo, Lombok, and Sumbawa, Indonesia. Valid species (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis stellatus* Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2017**

Pseudochromis stellatus Gill, Allen and Erdmann, 2017: 333, Figs. 1–3 (type locality, Indonesia, West Papua Province, Raja Ampat Islands, Batanta, Dayan Channel). Holotype: MZB 23884. Paratypes: AMS I.47330-001 (1); WAM P.33705-002 (1), WAM P.33630–001(3).

Distribution: Batanta and Batu Hitam in the northern Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua Province, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis striatus* Gill, Shao and Chen, 1995**

Pseudochromis striatus Gill, Shao and Chen, 1995: 79, Fig. 1 (type locality, White Beach, 20°24'45"N, 121°55'00"E, Batan I., Philippines, 15–21 m). Holotype: USNM 291616. Paratypes: ASIZT P.057128 (1), USNM 304579 (1).

Distribution: Known from scattered localities: Batan Island, Philippines; Orchid Island, Taiwan, and Ryukyu Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis tapeinosoma* Bleeker, 1853**

Pseudochromis tapeinosoma Bleeker, 1853c: 115 (type locality, Ambon Island, Moluccas Islands, Indonesia). Lectotype: RMNH 5960. Paralectotypes: RMNH 32434 (1). Lectotype selected by Gill (1995).

Pseudochromis melanotaenia Bleeker, 1863: 273 (type locality, Atapupu [Atupupu], Timor, Indonesia). Holotype (unique): RMNH 5963.

Labracinus flavipinnis Seale, 1910: 530 (type locality, Zamboanga, Mindanao, Philippines). Holotype (unique): BSMP 4410 (apparently destroyed).

Distribution: Christmas Island, Timor Sea to Ryukyus east to Papua New Guinea and Belau (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Comment: Synonymy from Gill (1995) and Gill (2004).

***Pseudochromis tauberae* Lubbock, 1977**

Pseudochromis tauberae Lubbock, 1977: 9, Pls. 2A, 3(C-D) (type locality, inside fringing reef, Shanzu, Kenya, 3 m). Holotype: BMNH 1975.2.12.10. Paratypes: BMNH 1975.2.12.11–12 (2); BPBM 18035 (1); MNHN 1965-0382 (5); SAIAB 3605 (1), 3614 (1); SMF 12660 (1), 12987 (1); USNM 212217 (1), 212277 (1).

Distribution: East Africa: off Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya east to Comoros and Madagascar (Gill, 2022)

***Pseudochromis tigrinus* Allen and Erdmann, 2012**

Pseudochromis tigrinus Allen and Erdmann, 2012: 1110, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, South-eastern tip of Narcondam Island, 13°25.277'S, 94°17.399'E, Andaman Islands). Holotype: WAM P.33250-001. Paratypes: USNM 404320 (5), WAM P.33249-001 (5).

Distribution: Known only from Andaman Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis tonozukai* Gill and Allen, 2004**

Pseudochromis tonozukai Gill and Allen, 2004: 7, Figs. 4–5 (type locality, Weh Island, near Point Seukundo, 5°52'N, 95°17'51"E, Aceh, northern Sumatra, Indonesia). Holotype: NCIP 6187. Paratypes: WAM P.31526-001 (1).

Distribution: Weh Island, off northern Sumatra, Indonesia (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis viridis* Gill and Allen, 1996**

Pseudochromis tapeinosoma (non Bleeker) Allen and Steen, 1979.

Pseudochromis viridis Gill and Allen, 1996: 34, Fig. 1 (type locality, South of North East Point, Christmas I., Indian Ocean, 10°27'S, 105°42'E, 0.1–3 m). Holotype: WAM P.29331-013. Paratypes: BMNH 1995.11.13.25 (1); WAM P.20120-008 (1), P.26122-004 (1).

Distribution: Christmas Island endemic (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Pseudochromis wilsoni* (Whitley, 1929)**

Leptochromis tapeinosoma wilsoni Whitley, 1929: 113 (type locality, Darwin, Northern Terr., Australia). Holotype: AMS IA.3873. Paratypes: AMS IA.3874 (1).

Distribution: Northern Australia and Great Barrier Reef (Gill et al., 2009)

***Pseudochromis yamasakii* Gill and Senou, 2016**

Pseudochromis yamasakii Gill and Senou, 2016: 296, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, Honshu, Kii Peninsula, Kushimoto, Japan). Holotype (unique): KPM-NI 17772.

Distribution: Japan (Gill and Senou, 2016).

Subfamily Pseudoplesiopinae Bleeker, 1873

Red Sea to Central Pacific. Diagnosis: pelvic fins with one spine and three or four unbranched soft rays; pectoral fin rays 17–19; dorsal fin rays mostly unbranched; teeth on palatine; the following osteological characters are autapomorphic: single

tubed lateral-line scale; posterior part of pelvic bone with triangular or hook-shaped lateral process; base of anterior process on pelvic bone posteriorly positioned; coracoid articulates ventrally with medial face of lateral lamina of cleithrum; basihyal bound to anterior face of basibranchial 1; and urohyal with prominent dorsally directed process. Secretive species living among corals and usually collected with the aid of ichthyocides. The actual number of genera and species is presumed to be higher than that known today, since undescribed species as well as new genera are known to exist (Fujiwara et al., 2025; Froese and Pauly, 2026). Five genera and 29 species are listed here.

Genus *Amsichthys* Gill and Edwards

Amsichthys Gill and Edwards 1999: 146 (type species, *Pseudoplesiops knighti* Allen, 1987, by original designation).

A single species (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

***Amsichthys knighti* (Allen, 1987)**

Pseudoplesiops knighti Allen, 1987: 253, Figs. 3–4 (type locality, Number 8 Ribbon Reef, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia, 14°58'S, 145°44'E, 25–40 m). Holotype: WAM P.28534-001. Paratypes: AMS I.18739-063 (7), I.18740-070 (2), I.19454-034 (1), I.19472-119 (11), I.19472-126 (1), I.20775-008 (2), I.21316-018 (1), I.22640-002 (1); BPBM 30930 (2); QM I.22340 (2); ROM 40459 (2), 40479 (2), 45993 (2); USNM 278457 (1); WAM P.25322-004 (1), P.27826-067 (5), P.28531-004 (3), P.28533-013 (3), P.28534-002 (3), P.28535-015 (2).

Distribution: Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the Philippines and Solomon Islands north to Yaeyama Islands, Japan (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

Genus *Chlidichthys* Smith

Chlidichthys Smith, 1953: 518 (type species, *Chlidichthys johnvoelckeri* Smith, 1953, by original designation).

Wamizichthys Smith, 1954: 205 (type species, *Wamizichthys bibulus* Smith, 1954, by original designation).

Indian Ocean and Red Sea. This genus has been regarded as a synonym of *Pseudoplesiops* by Edwards and Randall (1983), but subsequent studies made by Dr. Anthony Gill support the recognition of both genera (Gill et al., 1991). Genus revised by Gill and Edwards (2004) recognizing 13 species. The species were collected around drop-offs, surge channels, and coral and rocky reefs, among crevices, rubble and sandy bottoms.

***Chlidichthys abruptus* Lubbock, 1977**

Chlidichthys abruptus Lubbock, 1977: 17, Pls. 5 (C-D) (type locality, Sw. side of Raphael I., Cargados Carajos shoals, w. Indian Ocean). Holotype: SAIAB 1903. Paratypes: BMNH 1976.7.13.6–7 (2), USNM 216139 (3).

Distribution: Saint Brandon's Shoals (Cargados Carajos) endemic, western Indian Ocean (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys auratus* Lubbock, 1975**

Chlidichthys auratus Lubbock, 1975: 152, Pl. 3b (type locality, Port Sudan Harbour, Red Sea). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.172. Paratypes: BMNH 1973.12.20.173–179 (7), 1973.12.20.180 (1); BPBM 16411 (1); HUJ 6759 (1); USNM 211778-79 (4, 1).

Distribution: Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Chlidichthys bibulus* (Smith, 1954)**

Wamizichthys bibulus Smith, 1954: 205, Fig. 3 (type locality, Wamizi I., East Africa).

Distribution: East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique east to Socotra and Aldabra, Seychelles (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys cacatuoides* Gill and Randall, 1994**

Chlidichthys cacatuoides Gill and Randall, 1994: 13, Figs. 2–3 (type locality, Al Hallaniyah (Kuria Muria) Is., off sw. side of Sawda I., s. Oman, Arabian Sea). Holotype: BPBM 36048. Paratypes: BMNH 1994.4.19.1 (1), BPBM 36314 (1).

Distribution: Southern Oman and Socotra Islands (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys chagosensis* Gill and Edwards, 2004**

Chlidichthys chagosensis Gill and Edwards, 2004:14, Figs. 1B, 2B, 5, Pls. 1F, 2A (type locality, about 700 meters off jetty near Bamburi, 5°25'36"S, 71°45'53"E, Isle Du Coin, Peros Banhos Atoll, Chagos Archipelago). Holotype: ROM 72506. Paratypes: AMS I.23653–003 (c and s); BMNH 1908.3.23.96 (1), 1986.2.3.3-8 (6), 1986.2.3.22–30 (9); ROM 857CS (3, cands), 46322 (2), 72507 (5); USNM 212266 (1), 212268 (1).

Distribution: Chagos Archipelago endemic, Indian Ocean (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys clibanarius* Gill and Edwards, 2004**

Chlidichthys clibanarius Gill and Edwards, 2004: 15, Fig. 4, Pl. 2B (Andilana Beach, 14°43'S, 50°57'E, Nosy Bé, Madagascar). Holotype: AMS I.28113-063. Paratypes: ANSP 158208 (1); BMNH 2001.5.2.1–3 (3); ROM 1735CS (2, c and s), 72494 (2), 72508 (1), 72945–46 (1, 4); SAIAB 30717 (12), 34627 (2), 52883 (2), 52936 (8); USNM 264216 (1).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: Comoros, northern Madagascar and Aldabra (Seychelles). Valid according to Gill, 2022.

***Chlidichthys foudioides* Gill and Edwards, 2004**

Chlidichthys foudioides Gill and Edwards, 2004: 17, Fig. 3, Pls. 2C-D (type locality, Baladirou, 19°39'43"S, 63°27'27"E, Rodrigues Island, Mascarenes, southwestern Indian Ocean). Holotype: SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 67438. Paratypes: AMS

I.43170–001 (1); ASU 18578 (1, c and s); BMNH 2003.6.26.1 (1); ROM 73620 (1); SAIAB 67432 (4), 67440 (6), 67442 (9), 69251 (4); USNM 372275 (1).

Distribution: Rodrigues endemic (eastern Mascarenes). Valid according to Gill, 2022.

***Chlidichthys inornatus* Lubbock, 1976**

Chlidichthys inornatus Lubbock, 1976: 169, Fig. 1 (type locality, Lively Rocks, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.247. Paratypes: AMS I.18169-001 (1); BMNH 1908.3.23.96 (1), 1973.12.20.248–251 (4); BPBM 18039 (1); SMF 12990 (1); USNM 212264–68 (2, 1, 1, 1, 1).

Distribution: Maldives and Sri Lanka (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys johnvoelckeri* Smith, 1953**

Chlidichthys johnvoelckeri Smith, 1953: 203, Fig. 2 (type locality, Zanzibar). Lectotype: SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 163. Paralectotypes: (2) SAIAB 797 (1). Lectotype established by Smith (1954).

Distribution: Western Indian Ocean: Bazaruto and at Pinda and Pemba (Heemstra, 1995; Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys pembae* Smith, 1954**

Chlidichthys pembae Smith, 1954: 200, Fig. 1 (type locality, Zanzibar). Holotype: SAIAB 142. Paratypes: SAIAB 3621 (1) Matemo Island, ?3622 (1) Pemba, 3623 (1) Pemba.

Distribution: Tanzania, Ibo (Mozambique), Comoros, and Sodwana Bay, Natal, South Africa. (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys randalli* Lubbock, 1977**

Chlidichthys randalli Lubbock, 1977: 18, Pls. 2C, 3H (upper) (type locality, Lagoon side of Flamand Islet, Mauritius, w. Indian Ocean, 7–18 m). Holotype: BPBM 16299. Paratypes: BMNH 1975.2.12.25 (1).

Distribution: Mascarenes: Mauritius endemic (Gill, 2022).

***Chlidichthys rubiceps* Lubbock, 1975**

Chlidichthys rubiceps Lubbock, 1975: 150, Pl. 3a (type locality, Al Korae, Jidda, Saudi Arabia, 30 m). Holotype: BMNH 1973.12.20.166. Paratypes: BMNH 1973.12.20.167 (1), 1973.12.20.170 (1), 1973.12.20.171 (1); BPBM 13383 (1); HUJ 6762 (2); USNM 211776 (12)

Distribution: Red Sea endemic (Golani and Fricke, 2026).

***Chlidichthys smithae* Lubbock, 1977**

Chlidichthys smithae Lubbock, 1977: 16, Pls. 2D, 3(G-H) (type locality, Coral slope to silt bottom, Trou d'Eau Douce, Mauritius, W. Indian Ocean, 6–7 m). Holotype: BPBM 16295. Paratypes: BMNH 1975.2.12.26 (1).

Distribution: Mascarenes: Mauritius endemic (Gill, 2022).

Genus *Lubbockichthys* Gill and Edwards, 1999

Lubbockichthys Gill and Edwards, 1999: 144 (type species, *Pseudoplesiops multisquamatus* Allen, 1987, by original designation).

Three species. Found in crevices near drop-offs and caves (Froese and Pauly, 2026).

***Lubbockichthys multisquamatus* (Allen, 1987)**

Pseudoplesiops multisquamatus Allen, 1987: 257, Figs. 5–6 (type locality, Escape Reef, Great Barrier Reef, outside of n. passage, Queensland, Australia, 15°50'S, 145°50'E, 40 m). Holotype: WAM P.27470-002. Paratypes: AMS I.20775-007 (4), I.22627-012 (1); ANSP 137860–61 (3, 3); BPBM 30929 (2); ROM 50734 (4); USNM 278458 (2); WAM P.26082-019 (1), P.26087-012 (2), P.26097-010 (1), P.26099-011 (2), P.26116-010 (1), P.26121-003 (1), P.27476-001 (1), P.27659-025 (1), P.27826-041 (3), P.28170-010 (3), P.28172-007 (4), P.28174-028 (1), P.28541-030 (3).

Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean to Central Pacific: Christmas Island and Cocos-Keeling Islands, and Indonesia east to Philippines and Solomon Islands, north to Ryukyu Islands, south to Great Barrier Reef.

Comment: Valid species according to Allen and Erdmann (2024).

***Lubbockichthys myersi* Gill and Edwards, 2006**

Lubbockichthys myersi Gill and Edwards, 2006: 44, Fig. 1 (type locality, Off Orote Peninsula, inside Blue Hole, Guam, Mariana Islands, western Pacific). Holotype (unique): BMNH 2001.5.24.1.

Distribution: Guam, Mariana Islands (Froese and Pauly, 2026).

***Lubbockichthys tanakai* Gill and Senou, 2002**

Lubbockichthys tanakai Gill and Senou, 2002:2, Fig. 1 (type locality, Ie-shima Id, Ryukyu Ids). Holotype: KPM-NI 2522. Paratypes: BMNH 2000.5.24.1 (1).

Distribution: Ryukyu Islands, Philippines, West Papua (Indonesia) and Milne Bay (Papua New Guinea).

Comment: Valid species according to Allen and Erdmann (2024).

Genus *Pectinochromis* Gill and Edwards

Pectinochromis Gill and Edwards, 1999: 147 (type species, *Pseudoplesiops lubbocki* Edwards and Randall 1983, by original designation).

One species endemic to the Red Sea, found on rocky and coral reefs at a depth of about 50 m (Gill and Edwards, 1999).

***Pectinochromis lubbocki* (Edwards and Randall, 1983)**

Pseudoplesiops lubbocki Edwards and Randall, 1983: 112, Fig. 1 (type locality, Ras Abu-Galum, e. side of Sinai Peninsula, Gulf of Aqaba, Red Sea, 52–55 m).

Holotype: BPBM 28114. Paratypes: BMNH 1982.6.9.1–4 (4); BPBM 19699 (2), 28118–19 (1, 2); USNM 233899 (4).

Distribution: Red Sea endemic (Golani and Fricke, 2018).

Genus *Pseudoplesiops* Bleeker

Pseudoplesiops Bleeker, 1858: 217 (type species, *Pseudoplesiops typus* Bleeker, 1858, by monotypy).

Nematochromis Weber, 1913: 264 (type species, *Nematochromis annae* Weber, 1913, by monotypy).

Eleven species and several undescribed species are known to exist (Froese and Pauly, 2026). It inhabits inshore reefs (Paxton et al., 1989). Also found among rubble and in crevices, solitary or in loose groups.

***Pseudoplesiops annae* (Weber, 1913)**

Nematochromis annae Weber, 1913: 265, Fig. 66 (type locality, Solor Strait, Indonesia, 8°30'S, 123°30'E, Siboga sta. 305, 113 m). Lectotype: ZMA 112450. Paralectotype: ZMA 112451 (1).

Distribution: Eastern Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to the Philippines and Solomon Islands, north to southern Japan, south to Vanuatu, Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and the Coral Sea.

Comments: A valid species according to Allen and Erdmann (2024). Status and distribution have been recently reviewed (Fujiwara et al., 2025).

***Pseudoplesiops collare* Gill, Randall and Edwards, 1991**

Pseudoplesiops collare Gill, Randall and Edwards, 1991: 76, Figs. 1–4 (type locality, Reef off Pertamina dock, east of Maumere, Flores, Indonesia, 33 m). Holotype: BPBM 34564.

Distribution: Bali and Flores, Indonesia.

Comment: A valid species according to Allen and Erdmann (2024).

***Pseudoplesiops howensis* Allen, 1987**

Pseudoplesiops howensis Allen, 1987: 250, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Lord Howe I., 31°32'S, 159°04'E, 20–25 m). Holotype: AMS I.17358-018. Paratypes: AMS I.17422-010 (1), I.17357-013 (3), I.17358-008 (2), I.17362-027 (1); BPBM 14925 (8), 14944 (4); WAM P.28622-001 (2).

Distribution: Australia (including Lord Howe Island) and New Caledonia (Kulbicki et al., 1994). Valid according to Randall (2005).

***Pseudoplesiops immaculatus* Gill and Edwards, 2002**

Pseudoplesiops typus [non Bleeker, 1858]; Bleeker, 1875: 31 (in part, specimen from Amboina).

Chilidichthys [sic] sp. 1 Allen and Steene, 1979: 26 (Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling Atol (Indian Ocean).

*Pseudoplesiops revelle*i [non Schultz, 1953]; Kailola, 1987:244 (Papua New Guinea); Allen and Steene, 1988:180, fig. 145 (Christmas Island, Indian Ocean); Paxton et al., 1989: 521 (Great Barrier Reef).

Pseudoplesiops sp. Gill in Randall et al., 1990: 131 (description; distribution and col. fig.); Randall and Anderson, 1993: 15 (Maldive Islands); Gill in Randall et al., 1997: 131 (description; distribution; col. fig.); Kulbicki and Williams, 1997: 14 (Ouvéa Atoll, New Caledonia).

Pseudoplesiops sp. Allen and Smith–Vaniz, 1994: 10 (Cocos Keeling Islands).

Pseudoplesiops sp. 1 Gill and Edwards, 1999 :144 (list of osteological materials).

Pseudoplesiops immaculatus Gill and Edwards, 2002: 20, Figs. 1–2 (type locality Coral gutter, western end of Raine Island, Great Barrier Reef). Holotype: AMS I.20757-069. Paratypes: AMS I.17090-043 (1), I.17094-013 to 014 (1 ea.), I.17096-008 (1), I.20756-014 (1, c and s), I.20756-124 (2), I.20757-039 (1), I.20757-091 (3), I.20784-040 (2), I.21972-004 (1), I.22616-044 (1), I.22619-025 (1); ANSP 131727-28 (2, 1), 178041 (1); ASIZT 57016 (1), 56991 (1); BMNH 1974.5.25.973 (1); CAS 58686 (2); MNHN 1994-45 (1); QM I.15527 (2); RMNH 31188 (1); SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 35701 (1); USNM 209591 (3), 209965 (1), 290118 (6), 290327 (5), 290437 (1), 290749 (3), 290791 (1), 290808 (1), 291609 (1), 292031 (1), 322986 (1), 322994 (1), 328198 (1), 356587 (1), 357981 (1), 358382 (1); WAM P.26083-041 (1), P.26085-030 (1), P.26093-015 (1), P.26104-005 (1), P.26107-004 (1), P.26113-003 (2), P.27825-034 (3), P.29626-001 (1), P.29927-004 (1).

Distribution: Maldives and Christmas Islands to the East Indies and Great Barrier Reef east to Philippines, north to Japan.

Comment: A valid species as treated by Allen and Erdmann (2024) and Fujiwara et al. (2025)

***Pseudoplesiops occasus* Fujiwara and Motomura, 2025**

Pseudoplesiops occasus Fujiwara and Motomura in Fujiwara, Gill, Endo, Shibukawa and Motomura 2025:8, Figs. 1b, 4c-d, 6. (type locality, Shiomichi, Kikai-jima I., Amami Island, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, 28°20'06"N, 130°00'35"E, depth 15 m). Holotype: KAUM-I 146519. Paratypes: (4) CMNH-ZF 13771 (1), 14233 (1), 15400 (1); KAUM-I 104721.

Distribution: Western Pacific: Osumi and Amami Island, Ryukyu Islands, southern Japan.

***Pseudoplesiops occidentalis* Gill and Edwards, 2002**

Clinus sp. Regan, 1902: 276 (description; Haddumati, Maldive Islands).

Pseudoplesiops sp. Randall and Anderson, 1993: 15, pl .3e (Maldive Islands, col. fig.).

Pseudoplesiops sp. 1 Kuiter, 1998: 77 (habitat notes color photo).

Pseudoplesiops occidentalis Gill and Edwards 2002: 23, Figs. 3–4 (type locality, Maaniyafushi Island, South Malé Atoll, Maldive Islands). Holotype: BPBM 32926. Paratypes: AMS I.41004–001 (1, c and s), BMNH 1901.12.31.77 (1); BPBM 32871 (2).

Distribution: Apparently endemic to Maldive Islands (Froese and Pauly, 2026).

***Pseudoplesiops revellei* Schultz, 1953**

Pseudoplesiops revellei Schultz in Schultz et al., 1953: 404, Fig. 66 (type locality, W. end at channel and lagoon reef, Eman I., Bikini Atoll, w. Pacific). Holotype: USNM 140696. Paratypes: USNM 140695 (1), 152979 (1), 202528 (1).

Distribution: Christmas Island (Indian Ocean); Pacific Plate from Caroline Islands, Papua New Guinea and Marianas to Pitcairn Group.

Comment: A valid species according to Randall (2005).

***Pseudoplesiops rosae* Schultz, 1943**

Pseudoplesiops rosae Schultz, 1943: 117, Fig. 11 (type locality, Reef of Rose I., American Samoa). Holotype: USNM 116178. Paratypes: MCZ 37297.

Distribution: Eastern Indian Ocean to Great Barrier Reef and Micronesia northward to southern Japan east to Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tonga.

Comment: Status and distribution have been recently reviewed (Fujiwara et al., 2025).

***Pseudoplesiops typus* Bleeker, 1858**

Pseudoplesiops typus Bleeker, 1858: 217 (type locality, Goram I., Indonesia). Holotype (unique): RMNH 5969.

Pseudoplesiops sargenti Schultz in Schultz et al., 1953: 405, Fig. 67 (type locality, Coral heads at eastern end of lagoon, Bikini Atoll, w. Pacific). Holotype: USNM 140683. Paratypes: FMNH 62621 (1); SAIAB [formerly RUSI] 805 (1); USNM 140684 (1), 146515 (2), 146517-19 (2, 2, 1), 146521 (2), 202529 [ex UW 9599] (1).

Distribution: Borneo and northern half of Australia to Marshall Is. north to southern Japan, Solomon Is.

Comment: Taxonomic decision of A. Gill (pers. commun. in Kailola, 1987).

***Pseudoplesiops umbrosus* Fujiwara, Gill, Endo, Shibukawa and Motomura, 2025**

Pseudoplesiops umbrosus, Fujiwara, Gill, Endo, Shibukawa and Motomura, 2025:3, Figs. 1a, 2, 3b, 4a-b. (type locality, Tean, Amami-oshima I., Amami Island, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, 28°09'41"N, 129°17'28"E. Holotype: KAUM-I 62502. Paratypes: (42) AMS I.17089-046 (1), I.17089-050 (2), I.20784-063 (2), I.20784-063 (3); CMNH-ZF 14660-2 (3), 14752-55 (4), 14757-8 (2), 14780–81 (2), 14814 (1), 6125 (1); KAUM-I 57582 (1), 57602 (1), 62711 (1), 72182 (1), 53866 (1); KPM-NI 5728 (1), 5730 (1), 5535 (1); NSMT-P 64917 (1), 64943 (3); SPMN-PI 49805 (1); YCM-P 46099 (1), 46106 (2), 26425 (1), 45981 (1), 45983 (1), 27048 (2).

Distribution: Currently known from the western Pacific Ocean: Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Indonesia (West Papua), Papua New Guinea (Madang), and Australia (Coral Sea).

Comments: This species has been misidentified as *P. rosae* by Randall et al. (1997) and, more recently by Allen and Erdmann (2012).

***Pseudoplesiops wassi* Gill and Edwards, 2003**

Pseudoplesiops sp., Wass, 1984: 12 (description; Samoa).

Pseudoplesiops sp. 2; Gill and Edwards, 1999: 144 (list of osteological specimens); Gill, 1999: 2560 (key).

Pseudoplesiops wassi Gill and Edwards 2003: 2, Figs. 1–2 (type locality, Milli Bay, 13°40'19"S, 167°39'04"E, Mota Lava Island, Banks Islands, Vanuatu). Holotype: USNM 363283. Paratypes: AMS I.22584-032 (1), I.25107-066 (1), I.125112-001 (1), I.33731-084 (3); BMNH 1999.1.4.17 (1), 2003.1.22.10-14, 15, 16, and 17 (5, 1, 1, 1); BPBM 38969 (1); USNM 223334 (3), 242110 (2), 259385 (4), 283437 (3), 287661 (1), 290446 (1), 292059 (2), 338527 (1).

Distribution: Western Pacific: Australia and Coral Sea, Papua New Guinea, Mariana Islands east to Tonga, Samoa and Caroline Islands (Allen and Erdmann, 2024).

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