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# A Review of the Genus *Parioglossus*, with Descriptions of Six New Species (Pisces: Gobioidei)

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ABSTRACT. Fourteen species of *Parioglossus* are recognized from the warm temperate to tropical western Pacific and Indian Oceans: *P. aporos* n. sp., *P. dotui*, *P. formosus*, *P. lineatus* n. sp., *P. marginalis* n. sp., *P. nudus* n. sp., *P. palustris*, *P. philippinus*, *P. rainfordi*, *P. raoi*, *P. taeniatus*, *P. triquetrus* n. sp., *P. verticalis* n. sp., *P.* sp. Synonymies, general morphology and osteology of the genus are described, and a key for separating the species is included. Diagnoses, descriptions, distributions, comparisons, line drawings and photographs of each species are given as well as synonymies of previously described species. Notes on ecology and food preferences are included when known. Tables of meristics and morphometrics are included for the holotypes and for all other material. Different characteristics of the species are compared in a separate table. Similarities between *Parioglossus* and related genera, in the subfamily Ptereleotrinae, are discussed. Provisionally, the subfamily is placed in the family Microdesmidae.

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The genus *Parioglossus* consists of fourteen species that inhabit warm temperate to tropical regions of the western Pacific and Indian Oceans. These fishes are normally found around the roots of mangroves, or around algae in estuaries and coastal coral reefs. Only a few of the species appear to be widespread, however all the species are small sized (size range of mature fish varies from 17.4 mm for *P. nudus*, to 39 mm for *P. marginalis*) and sampling of their usual habitats is normally avoided by collectors. Our experience and that of V. Springer (*in litt.*) suggest that the fish are difficult to collect in mangroves. When collected with rotenone, the fishes rise to the surface only briefly and then disappear into the muddy waters. It is likely that as tropical mangrove zones are sampled more extensively, the distribution range of many of the species will be found to be greater than now appears. Few of the species occur around coral reefs, which have been sampled more extensively. Presently only *P. philippinus* and *P. taeniatus* are known from the western Indian Ocean to the western Pacific. Several of the species are known to occur in schools. Gut contents indicate that zooplankton, mainly copepods, comprise their diet.

Tomiyama (1958, 1959) reviewed and Senou and Suzuki are revising the *Parioglossus* species of Japan, but there is no comprehensive revision of this genus available. Tomiyama (1958, 1959) was apparently unaware that *Herreolus* and *Andameleotris* are synonyms of *Parioglossus*, and Herre (1945a) ignored species of *Parioglossus*. As a result the same species has sometimes been described as new in different genera.

*Parioglossus* was defined by Regan (1912) on the basis of its separate pelvics, strongly compressed head and body, oblique, protractile mouth, small body scales, vertical gill openings and dorsal and anal fins consisting of one spine and 15–16 rays. Several genera that we regard here as junior synonyms of *Parioglossus* have been described. Smith (1931a) erected the genus *Herrea*, which was found to be preoccupied and was replaced first by *Herreolus* (Smith 1931b) and subsequently (see Smith, 1945) by *Herreichthys* (Koumans 1931). Herre (1939) described *Andameleotris*, as a subgenus of *Amblyeleotris* and incorrectly reported it as having one spine, three rays in the pelvic fin and six branchiostegals. *Andameleotris* was subsequently recognized as a genus with the description of *A. palustris* (Herre 1945a). In