

## A Revision of the Australian Plesiopid Fish Genus *Paraplesiops*, with Notes on Other Australian Genera

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**ABSTRACT.** The species of the Australian endemic genus *Paraplesiops* are reviewed. Three previously described species (*P. poweri*, *P. bleekeri* and *P. meleagris*) are recognized and *P. alisonae* is described as new. *Paraplesiops meleagris* is shown to vary geographically in scale and gill raker counts. A key is provided to Australian plesiopid genera, and characteristics are given to allow identification of genera.

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The genus *Paraplesiops* is restricted to subtropical and temperate rocky and coral reefs of Australia. Most species are cryptic, occurring in caves and under ledges. Little taxonomic work has been done on the group. Ogilby (1918) reviewed the Queensland species, and provided a key distinguishing five species, of which only three are recognized here. All the species were regarded as allopatric and little was known of their inter-relationships. Subsequently the junior author discovered a fourth undescribed species, differing considerably in morphology from other Australian species.

Also, little information was available on other Australian plesiopid genera until the works of Allen and Kuitert (1976) and Allen (1977). Recent collections have been made of *Callopleysiops* from Australia. It has also been found that *Fraudella*, originally described as a serranoid, belongs with the plesiopids. Currently six plesiopid genera are known from Australia, three endemic. Since literature on the family is scattered, a key is presented here to aid identification of the genera.

### Materials and Methods

Counts and measurements follow Hubbs and Lagler (1958). Lateral line counts include pored scales from the upper lateral line running along the back, and the lower lateral line running along the midside to the base of the caudal fin. The longitudinal scale count is taken in a line from the end of the operculum to the caudal base, excluding small scales on the caudal fin. Lower gill raker counts are from the outer face of the first arch, beginning at the angle and including rudiments.

Material used for the study is deposited in the following institutions: Australian Museum, Sydney

(AMS); National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne (NMV), Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QM), South Australian Museum, Adelaide (SAM), Western Australian Museum, Perth (WAM), and Division of Fisheries, CSIRO, Cronulla (CSIRO).

The following material was used in preparing Table 1 and the key to genera: *Assessor flavissimus*—AMS I.19445-108, 1(26), Lizard Island, Queensland. *Assessor macneilli*—AMS I.15682-035, 55(13-53), One Tree Island, Queensland. *Callopleysiops altivelis*—AMS I. 15684-032, 2(85-95), One Tree Island, Queensland. *Fraudella carassiops*—AMS IA.5093, 1(43), holotype, North-west Islet, Queensland; AMS IA.6302, 7(29-43), paratypes, North-west Islet, Queensland; QM I.12388, 1(44), north of North Keppel Island, Queensland. *Trachinops brauni*—AMS I.20245-018, 23(17-45), Rottnest Island, Western Australia. *Trachinops caudimaculatus*—AMS I.17550-005, 4(49-60), Port Arthur, Tasmania. *Trachinops noarlungae*—AMS I.20181-009, 1(66), Kangaroo Island, South Australia. *Trachinops taeniatus*—AMS I.18241-020, 60(10-65), Port Hacking, New South Wales. *Plesiops oxycephala*—AMS I.15681-043, 17(37-80), One Tree Island, Queensland. *Plesiops cephalotaenia*—AMS I.15634-017, 1(70), One Tree Island, Queensland. *Plesiops coeruleolineatus*—AMS I.19460-051, 1(49), Decapolis Reef, Queensland.

### Australian Plesiopid Genera

The six plesiopid genera recognized from Australia are compared in Table 1.

Whitley (1935) described *Fraudella* in the Hypoplectrodididae (= Serranidae) and recorded I, 5