

The ETYFish Project

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COMMENTS: 

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Order GOBIESOCIFORMES

Family GOBIESOCIDAE Clingfishes

53 genera · 199 species/subspecies

Subfamily Diplocrepinae

***Diplocrepis* Günther 1861**

diplo-, twofold; *crepis*, shoe, slipper or sandal, allusion not explained; since ventral (or pelvic) fins are homologous to the feet of terrestrial vertebrates (and often referred to as feet, e.g., *pous*, in fish names), name may refer to the double-type adhesive disc (modified ventral fins and adjacent tissue) of this genus, figuratively serving as a pair of shoes for the fish (Günther also used *crepis* for a related genus, *Crepidogaster*, “shoe belly,” preoccupied in beetles, replaced by *Aspasmogaster*)

***Diplocrepis puniceus* (Richardson 1846)**

reddish, referring to “pure red” color, very pale on same parts and more intense in others, “after long maceration in spirits”

Subfamily Lepadogastrinae

***Apletodon* Briggs 1955**

apletos, extraordinary (i.e., different); *odon*, tooth, referring to its teeth, which are “more highly differentiated than in other genera in this subfamily”

***Apletodon barbatus* Fricke, Wirtz & Brito 2010**

bearded, referring to its maxillary barbels, which are “quite conspicuous in males, and characteristic for the species”

***Apletodon dentatus dentatus* (Facciolà 1887)**

toothed, presumably referring to two well-developed canines on each side of upper jaw

***Apletodon dentatus bacescui* (Antoniou-Murgoci 1940)**

in honor of zoologist Mihai C. Băcescu (1908–1999), Museum of Natural History in Bucharest, who collected holotype while dredging in the Black Sea and “kindly entrusted” (translation) Antoniu-Murgoci with this material

***Apletodon gabonensis* Fricke & Wirtz 2018**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: off the coast of Gabon, West Africa, type locality

***Apletodon incognitus* Hofrichter & Patzner 1997**

unknown, referring to how this species remained undescribed due to its similarity with *A. dentatus* and *Diplogaster bimaculata*

***Apletodon pellegrini* (Chabanaud 1925)**

in honor of French ichthyologist Jacques Pellegrin (1873–1944), who, in 1914, demonstrated “wise prudence” in reporting the only adult specimen in good condition of this clingfish that he had at his disposal as *Lepadogaster* (now *Diplecogaster*) *bimaculatus*

***Apletodon wirtzi* Fricke 2007**

in honor of marine biologist Peter Wirtz (b. 1948), Universidade da Madeira (Portugal), who collected numerous “interesting” fish species, including type of this one, in Sao Tome and Principe and other areas of the tropical and temperate Atlantic

***Diplecogaster* Fraser-Brunner 1938**

di-, two; *pleco-*, folded, pleated or plicate; *gaster*, belly, referring to double-type adhesive disc

***Diplecogaster bimaculata* (Bonnaterre 1788)**

bi-, two; *maculatus*, spotted, based on “The bimaculated sucker” of Pennant 1769, referring to round black spot on each side of adhesive disc

***Diplecogaster ctenocrypta* Briggs 1955**

ctenos, comb; *kryptos*, hidden, referring to 18 very small, pointed gill rakers on third gill arch

***Diplecogaster euxinica* Murgoci 1964**

-ica, belonging to: Euxine, historical name for the Black Sea, where this clingfish is endemic

***Diplecogaster megalops* Briggs 1955**

mega-, large; *ops*, eye, referring to larger eyes (in specimens of comparable size) than *D. bimaculata*

***Diplecogaster pectoralis* Briggs 1955**

of the breast, proposed as a subspecies of *D. bimaculata* with a relatively higher number of rays in the pectoral fins

***Diplecogaster roseiocola* Fricke & Wirtz 2023**

roseus, rose; *ocula*, eyed (correct Latin would be *oculata* or *ocularis*), referring to its pink eyes [emended from *roseiocolus* to agree with feminine gender of genus]

***Diplecogaster tonstricula* Fricke, Wirtz & Brito 2015**

Latin for “little female barber,” referring to its facultative cleaning of larger fishes

***Diplecogaster umutturali* Bilecenoğlu, Yokeş & Kovačić 2017**

in honor of Umut Tural (d. 2012), a “promising conservation biologist passionate for marine life” who was coordinator of the Kaş-Kekova Specially Protected Area Management Plan and Implementation Project on behalf of WWF-Türkiye, in which he actively participated by collecting clingfish samples (he passed away after a year-long battle with cancer)

***Gouania* Nardo 1833**

-ia, belonging to: the “famous” (translation) Antoine Goüan (1733-1821), French naturalist and pioneer of Linnaean plant taxonomy, who proposed the clingfish genus *Lepadogaster* in his *Historia piscium* (1770) [originally spelled *Covania*, a latinization; corrected spelling, dating to 1864, is in prevailing usage]

***Gouania adriatica* Wagner, Kovačić & Koblmüller 2020**

-ica, belonging to: Adriatic Sea, type locality

***Gouania hofrichteri* Wagner, Kovačić & Koblmüller 2020**

in honor of Robert Hofrichter (b. 1957), University of Salzburg, whose work on European clingfishes sparked the authors’ interest in these “enigmatic” fishes

***Gouania orientalis* Wagner, Kovačić & Koblmüller 2020**

eastern, restricted to the eastern Mediterranean Basin (southern Ionian Sea and Aegean Sea)

***Gouania pigra* (Nardo 1827)**

sluggish or slow-moving, allusion not explained, probably referring to rudimentary dorsal and anal fins

***Gouania willdenowi* (Risso 1810)**

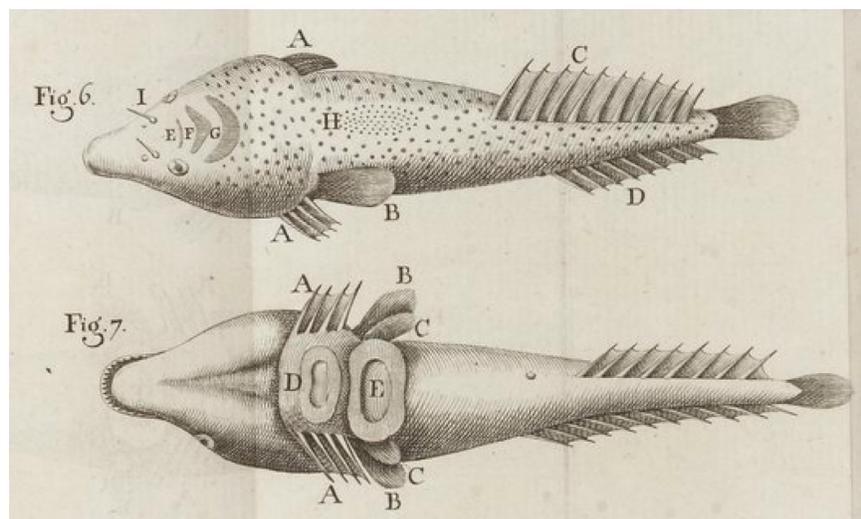
in honor of German botanist Carl Ludwig Willdenow (1765-1812), following the example of *Lepadogaster gouani* (= *lepadogaster*) Walbaum 1792, also named after a botanist (see *Gouania*, above, and *L. candolii*, below) [often misspelled *wildenowi*]

***Lecanogaster* Briggs 1957**

lekos, plate, platter, dish or pan; *gaster*, stomach or belly, referring to plate-like adhesive disc

***Lecanogaster chrysea* Briggs 1957**

gold, referring to Gold Coast of Ghana, where it appears to be endemic



“Suck-fish,” later described as *Lepadogaster purpurea*. From: Borlase, W. 1758. *The natural history of Cornwall*. Oxford, England (printed for the author). 22 + xix + 326 + [2] + 64 pp., 29 pls.

***Lecanogaster gorgoniphila* Fricke & Wirtz 2017**

philia, affection or fondness, referring to its commensal association with gorgonians

***Lepadogaster* Goüan 1770**

lepados, limpet; *gaster*, belly, allusion not explained, possibly referring to how adhesive disc of *L. lepadogaster* looks like an upside-down limpet and/or how the fish uses it to adhere, limpet-like, to stones and other objects [appeared first, without species, so not tautonymous with *L. lepadogaster*]

***Lepadogaster candolii* Risso 1810**

in honor of Swiss botanist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1778-1841), following the example of *Lepadogaster gouani* (= *lepadogaster*) Walbaum 1792, also named after a botanist (see *Gouania* and *G. willdenowii*, above)

***Lepadogaster lepadogaster* (Bonnaterre 1788)**

named for *Lepadogaster*, which was proposed without species (see above) [originally misspelled *lepodogaster*, presumably a misprint; corrected spelling is in prevailing usage]

***Lepadogaster purpurea* (Bonnaterre 1788)**

purple, referring to dark-red color (presumably its spots) in life; Bonnaterre based his description on Borlase's *Natural History of Cornwall* (1758), where this "suck-fish" was described as "purple coloured"

***Opeatogenys* Briggs 1955**

opeatos, an awl; *genys*, cheek, referring to strong, pointed subopercular spine of *O. gracilis*

***Opeatogenys cadenati* Briggs 1957**

in honor of French ichthyologist Jean Cadenat (1908-1992), Director, Marine Biological Section of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire (Gorée, Senegal), for his "excellent work" on the fishes of Senegal and his "kindness" in sending Briggs a "fine" collection of clingfishes from West Africa

***Opeatogenys gracilis* (Canestrini 1864)**

thin or slender, referring to "very depressed" (translation) head and body (up to anus)

Subfamily Chorisochisminae***Chorisochismus* Brisout de Barneville 1846**

choristos, separate or distinct; [*s*] *chisma*, slot (i.e., gill opening), referring to wide gill openings extending under throat, the membranes of which form a fold across the throat, fusing medially with the isthmus

***Chorisochismus dentex* (Pallas 1769)**

with large teeth, referring to large, conical teeth at front of both jaws

***Eckloniaichthys* Smith 1943**

Ecklonia, genus of sea-bamboo (kelp) in which it occurs; *ichthys*, fish

***Eckloniaichthys scylliorhiniceps* Smith 1943**

skyllion, Greek for dogfish or small shark, probably from *skyllō*, to tear or mangle; *rhinus*, snout; *ceps*, head, referring to pointed snout and "distinctly 'Selachian'" shape of head

Subfamily Haplocylicinae***Gastrocyathus* Briggs 1955**

gaster, belly; *cyathus*, cup, referring to adhesive disc common to clingfishes (except *Alabes*)

***Gastrocyathus gracilis* Briggs 1955**

slender or thin, referring to slender, anteriorly depressed body

***Gastrocymba* Briggs 1955**

gaster, belly; *cymba*, cup, referring to adhesive disc common to clingfishes (except *Alabes*)

***Gastrocymba quadriradiata* (Rendahl 1926)**

quadri-, four; *radiata*, rayed, presumably referring to four rays on dorsal and anal fins (originally spelled "*4-radiatus*"; correction is mandatory)

***Gymnoscyphus* Böhlke & Robins 1970**

gymnos, bare or naked; *skyphos*, cup (i.e., disc), referring to lack of papillae on adhesive disc

***Gymnoscyphus ascitus* Böhlke & Robins 1970**

foreign or alien, referring to distribution in the Lesser Antilles, far from its closest relatives in *Haplocylix*, known only from New Zealand

***Haplocylix* Briggs 1955**

haplos, single; *culix*, cup, referring to single- instead of double-type adhesive disc

***Haplocylix littoreus* (Forster 1801)**

littoral (i.e., close to shore), referring to its occurrence "between the rocks along the coast" (translation) of New Zealand, where it is endemic

Subfamily Protogobiesocinae

***Gastroscyphus* Briggs 1955**

gaster, belly; *scyphus*, cup, referring to referring to adhesive disc common to clingfishes (except *Alabes*)

***Gastroscyphus hectoris* (Günther 1876)**

-*is*, genitive singular of: James Hector (1834-1907), Director, Geological Survey of New Zealand, who presented type to the British Museum

***Kopua* Hardy 1984**

New Zealand Maori word for “deep water,” referring to the “considerable depths (for gobiesocids)” from which *K. nuimata* has been taken

***Kopua kuiteri* Hutchins 1991**

in honor of Australian underwater photographer Rudolf “Rudie” Kuitert (b. 1943), who collected type and provided color transparencies showing its life coloration

***Kopua minima* (Döderlein 1887)**

smallest, presumably referring to its size, described at 23 mm (but reaches 50 mm SL)

***Kopua nuimata* Hardy 1984**

New Zealand Maori words *nui* meaning “big” and *mata* meaning “eye,” referring to its relatively large eyes

***Kopua vermiculata* Shinohara & Katayama 2015**

vermiculate (wormy), referring to shape of markings on body

***Kopua yoko* Fujiwara, Okamoto & Motomura 2018**

named for the Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute research vessel *Yoko-maru*, from which holotype was collected

***Protogobiesox* Fricke, Chen & Chen 2016**

protos, first; *Gobiesox*, type genus of family, referring to how its rudimentary pelvic fins resemble the putative ancestral form of clingfishes

***Protogobiesox asymmetricus* Fricke, Chen & Chen 2016**

named for unusual asymmetry of head and body (rare in fishes)

Subfamily Cheilobranchinae Shore-Eels

cheilos, lip; *branchus*, gill, from *Cheilobranchus* Richardson 1845 (now a junior synonym of *Alabes*), referring to “little role or lip on the hinder edge” of gill opening of *A. dorsalis*

***Alabes* Cloquet 1816**

Greek word for a fish of the Nile so slippery that it cannot be grasped (i.e., an eel), applied by Cuvier for these eel-like fishes in a manuscript name first published by Cloquet

***Alabes bathys* Hutchins 2006**

deep, referring to its deepwater habitat (160-348 m)

***Alabes brevis* Springer & Fraser 1976**

short, referring to reduced number of vertebrae compared to congeners

***Alabes dorsalis* (Richardson 1845)**

dorsal or of the back, allusion not explained, possibly referring to a “straight furrow” running from head to base of caudal fin, “coincident with the spine”

***Alabes elongata* Hutchins & Morrison 2004**

elongate, referring to relatively slender body compared to relatively robust *A. dorsalis*

***Alabes gibbosa* Hutchins & Morrison 2004**

humpbacked, referring to its deep body, which usually exhibits a gibbous dorsal profile

***Alabes hoesei* Springer & Fraser 1976**

in honor of ichthyologist Douglass F. Hoese (b. 1942), Australian Museum (Sydney), who provided much of the material upon which the authors’ study is based

***Alabes obtusirostris* Hutchins & Morrison 2004**

obtusus, blunt; *rostris*, snout, referring to blunt snout, rather truncate in dorsal view

***Alabes occidentalis* Hutchins & Morrison 2004**

western, referring to its occurrence in south Western Australia

***Alabes parvula* (McCulloch 1909)**

very small, described at 47 mm; when first collected, McCulloch supposed it to be the larval form of some larger species

- Alabes scotti* Hutchins & Morrison 2004**
in honor of the late Eric Oswald Gale Scott (1899-1986), science teacher, museum director, ichthyologist and pacifist (Launceston, Tasmania), who first brought this species to the senior author's attention in 1982 when he provided a rough illustration of a clingfish he believed was undescribed; unfortunately, he never pursued his plan to describe it and his specimens have not been located
- Alabes springeri* Hutchins 2006**
in honor of ichthyologist Victor G. Springer (b. 1928), U.S. National Museum, who, with Thomas Fraser, first reported the apparent uniqueness of this species in 1976
- Barryichthys Conway, Moore & Summers 2019***
Barry, in honor of ichthyologist J. Barry Hutchins (b. 1946), Western Australian Museum, for his work on Australian clingfishes; *ichthys*, fish
- Barryichthys algicola* Conway, Moore & Summers 2019**
alga, algae; *cola*, inhabitant, referring to its habitat, subtidal fields of macroalgae
- Barryichthys hutchinsi* Conway, Moore & Summers 2019**
in honor of ichthyologist J. Barry Hutchins (b. 1946), Western Australian Museum, who discovered this species
- Cochleocephalus Whitley 1943***
cochlear, spoon; *cephalus*, head, referring to spatulate snout of *C. spatula*
- Cochleocephalus bassensis* Hutchins 1983**
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Bass Strait, separating Tasmania from the Australian mainland, where this clingfish occurs
- Cochleocephalus bicolor* Hutchins 1991**
bi-, two, referring to two-tone body coloration (reddish anteriorly, dusky posteriorly)
- Cochleocephalus orientalis* Hutchins 1991**
eastern, referring to its distribution on the eastern side of Australia
- Cochleocephalus spatula* (Günther 1861)**
spoon or paddle, referring to broad, long and much-depressed snout
- Cochleocephalus viridis* Hutchins 1991**
green, referring to predominantly green (apple green to pale green) coloration in life
- Melanophorichthys Conway, Moore & Summers 2024***
mélanos (Gr. μέλανος), genitive of *mélas* (μέλας), black, and *phoreús* (Gr. φορέύς), bearer or carrier, referring to large dark-brown or black melanophores that persist in preserved specimens of the genus; *ichthys* (Gr. ἰχθύς), fish
- Melanophorichthys parvipsittus* Conway, Moore & Summers 2024**
derived from *Parvipsitta*, a genus of Australian endemic parrot, referring to the bright color of males in life
- Melanophorichthys penicillus* Conway, Moore & Summers 2024**
diminutive of *peniculus* (L.), brush, and the source of the English word pencil, referring to its slender, pencil-like appearance
- Melanophorichthys posidonus* Conway, Moore & Summers 2024**
derived from *Posidonia*, a genus of marine flowering plants (Posidoniaceae) known collectively as seagrass, referring to the fish's occurrence in seagrass
- Melanophorichthys priscillae* Conway, Moore & Summers 2024**
of Priscilla, from the 1994 Australian road comedy film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, which details the journey of three heroines (two drag queens and a transgender woman) as they travel across the Australian continent in a bus named Priscilla, referring to the bright colors of males in life
- Nettorhamphos Conway, Moore & Summers 2017***
netta, duck; *rhampfos*, bill or curved beak, referring to upper jaw much wider and longer than lower jaw
- Nettorhamphos radula* Conway, Moore & Summers 2017**
a tool used for scraping, referring to many tiny conical teeth on lingual surface of premaxilla and dentary, which are reminiscent of the radula of a snail
- Parvicrepis Whitley 1931***
etymology not explained, probably a combination of *parvus*, small, referring to its size and/or its type species, *P. parvipinnis*, and *Diplocrepis*, original genus of that species
- Parvicrepis parvipinnis* (Waite 1906)**
parvus, small; *pinnis*, fin, allusion not explained nor evident; Briggs (1955) reports that dorsal and anal fins are both short; *parvus* may also refer to its overall size, described at 64 mm TL

Posidonichthys Briggs 1993

Posidonia, genus of seagrasses, referring to its occurrence on the leaves of *P. australis*; *ichthys*, fish

Posidonichthys hutchinsi Briggs 1993

in honor of ichthyologist J. Barry Hutchins (b. 1946), Western Australian Museum, for his “excellent work” on Australian clingfishes

Subfamily Trachelochisminae**Dellichthys Briggs 1955**

named for malacologist Richard Kenneth Dell (1920–2002), Dominion (now Te Papa) Museum (Wellington, New Zealand), for his interest in the shore fishes of New Zealand and his generosity in providing Briggs with “material of great value” for his monograph; *ichthys*, fish

Dellichthys morelandi Briggs 1955

in honor of Jack Munne Moreland (1921–2012), Dominion (now Te Papa) Museum (Wellington, New Zealand), for the loan of fishes he helped collect, and because of his interest in the shore fishes of New Zealand

Dellichthys trnskii Conway, Stewart & Summers 2018

in honor of marine biologist Tom Trnski (b. 1963), Head of Natural Sciences, Auckland Museum (New Zealand), who played a key role in the discovery of this species by collecting in depths beyond the reach of the first author

Trachelochismus Brisout de Barneville 1846

trachelos, neck; [*s*] *chisma*, slot (i.e., gill opening), referring to how gills of *T. pinnulatus* occupy entire width of throat above anterior adhesive disc

Trachelochismus aestuarium Conway, Stewart & King 2017

named for its occurrence in bay and estuarine areas of New Zealand

Trachelochismus melobesia Phillipps 1927

presumably referring to the encrusting red algae *Melobesia membranacea*; Phillipps said “specific name has particular reference to the rose-coloured patch [on dorsal surface] by which the species may readily be distinguished”

Trachelochismus pinnulatus (Forster 1801)

with pinnules, referring to extended, tubular nostrils with flaps that look like pinnules (Ronald Fricke, pers. comm.)

Subfamily Diademichthyinae**Aspasma Jordan & Fowler 1902**

aspos, an embrace, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to how clingfishes firmly cling to loose stones between the tide marks by means of their adhesive disc

Aspasma ubauo Fujiwara & Motomura 2019

standard Japanese name of this species

Aspasmichthys Briggs 1955

Aspasma, closely related to that genus; *ichthys*, fish

Aspasmichthys ciconiae (Jordan & Fowler 1902)

of the stork genus *Ciconia*, referring to a line from a well-known Japanese poem that mentions Wakanoura, Wakayama Prefecture, Japan (type locality): “On the shores of Waka / When the tide flows in, / Dry land being none, / Toward the place of reeds / The storks fly crying.” (translation)

Aspasmodes Smith 1957

-odes, having the form of: “closely related” to *Aspasma*

Aspasmodes briggsi Smith 1957

in honor of John C. “Jack” Briggs (1920–2018), then at the University of Florida, “in appreciation of his magnificent [1955] monograph of the Clingfishes, which is a boon to ichthyologists everywhere”

Diademichthys Pfaff 1942

Diadema, genus of sea urchins, among the venomous spines of which it is “constantly seen”; *ichthys*, fish

Diademichthys lineatus (Sauvage 1883)

lined, referring to a light-colored line from tip of snout to base of dorsal fin, and lines of the same color under the belly and on the sides

Discotrema Briggs 1976

diskos, disc; *trema*, hole, referring to deep cavity in adhesive disc

Discotrema crinophilum Briggs 1976

krinon, lily (in this case, a sea-lily); *philia*, friendly love, referring to its commensal relationship with crinoids (especially *Comanthus bennetti*)

- Discotrema monogrammum* Craig & Randall 2008**
mono-, one; *gramme*, line, referring to one continuous pale-yellow to white stripe, compared to *D. crinophilum*, which has two stripes
- Discotrema nigrum* (Fricke 2014)**
 black, referring to jet-black color of head, eyes, body, belly, and fins in life
- Discotrema zonatum* Craig & Randall 2008**
 banded, referring to irregular brown bars on body
- Erdmannichthys* Conway, Fujiwara, Motomura & Summers 2021**
 in honor of marine biologist Mark V. Erdmann (b. 1968), Conservation International, Indonesia Marine Program, for his work on Indo-Pacific reef fishes (he also co-described *E. aloreensis* in 2012)
- Erdmannichthys aloreensis* (Allen & Erdmann 2012)**
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Alor Group of Islands, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, type locality
- Flabellicauda* Fujiwara, Conway & Motomura 2021**
flabellum, an anatomical term for a body organ or part that resembles a fan; *cauda*, tail, referring to fan-like shape of hypural plate
- Flabellicauda akiko* (Allen & Erdmann 2012)**
 in memory of Akiko Shiraki Dynner, who had a “lifelong attachment to the ocean,” and whose husband Alan has been a strong supporter of marine conservation initiatives in the Bird’s Head Seascape, which encompasses Cenderawasih Bay, West Papua, Indonesia, where this clingfish is endemic [a noun in apposition, without the genitive “*ae*”]
- Flabellicauda alleni* Fujiwara, Conway & Motomura 2021**
 in honor of ichthyologist Gerald R. Allen (b. 1942), Western Australia Museum (Perth), for his “great” contributions to the systematics of tropical-reef fishes of the East Indies (he also co-described *F. akiko* in 2012)
- Flabellicauda bolini* (Briggs 1962)**
 in honor of ichthyologist Rolf Bolin (1901-1973), Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University, “primarily in recognition for his contributions to systematic ichthyology and secondarily because he collected the type specimen”
- Flabellicauda cometes* Fujiwara, Conway & Motomura 2021**
 Latin for comet, referring to bold white stripe along dorsal midline, reminiscent of the trailing tail of a traveling comet against the night sky
- Flexor* Conway, Stewart, Summers & 2018**
 anatomical term for muscles, referring to the great flexibility of clingfishes, many of which have the ability to bend the body so that the tail end comes to lie close to the head
- Flexor incus* Conway, Stewart, Summers & 2018**
 anvil, referring to anvil-like outline of Raoul Island (type locality), largest island in the Kermadec archipelago
- Lepadichthys* Waite 1904**
lepad-, apparently from *Lepadogaster*, referring to how two characters of *L. frenatus* (long vertical fins, identical number of vertebrae) agree with that genus; *ichthys*, fish
- Lepadichthys bilineatus* Craig, Bogorodsky & Randall 2015**
bi-, two; *lineatus*, lined, referring to two parallel bluish-white lines that extend posteriorly across head
- Lepadichthys coccinotaenia* Regan 1921**
coccineus, scarlet; *taenia*, band, referring to scarlet stripe through eye to operculum
- Lepadichthys conwayi* Fujiwara & Motomura 2020**
 in honor of Kevin Conway, Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas, USA), for his recent contributions to the systematics of clingfishes
- Lepadichthys ctenion* Briggs & Link 1963**
 diminutive of *ctenos*, comb, referring to relatively poorly developed gill rakers
- Lepadichthys erythraeus* Briggs & Link 1963**
 red, referring to Mare Erythraeum, ancient name for Red Sea, where this clingfish is endemic
- Lepadichthys frenatus* Waite 1904**
 bridled, presumably referring to bright-scarlet streak that passes through eye towards upper margin of opercle
- Lepadichthys misakius* (Tanaka 1908)**
-ius, belonging to: Misaki, Miura, Kanagawa, Japan, type locality (also occurs off Taiwan and Viêt Nam)
- Lepadichthys sandaracatus* Whitley 1943**
 sandarac, the orange-red sulfide of arsenic, presumably referring to uniform yellowish or carmine coloration in

alcohol

***Lepadichthys trishula* Fujiwara, Hagiwara & Motomura 2020**

trident, referring to three narrow white stripes on head to anterior body, including two on sides and one on dorsal midline

***Lepadicyathus* Prokofiev 2005**

lepa-, referring to external similarity to *Lepadichthys*; *di-*, two and *cyathus*, cup, referring to double-type adhesive disc

***Lepadicyathus minor* (Briggs 1955)**

smaller, a “very small” species (16.7 mm SL) that had been “unrecognized until now probably only because of its small size”

***Liobranchia* Briggs 1955**

leios, smooth; *branchia*, gills, referring to smooth gill arches, the gill rakers entirely absent

***Liobranchia stria* Briggs 1955**

furrow, referring to prominent vertical furrows between ridges on sides, a “most peculiar and highly modified species,” having little resemblance to any other clingfish, similar to the extinct trichomycterid catfish *Rhizosomichthys totae*

***Lissonanchus* Smith 1966**

etymology not explained, perhaps *lissos*, smooth and [*br*]*anchos*, gill or *ankos*, bend or hollow, referring to rudimentary gill rakers

***Lissonanchus hastingsi* (Craig & Randall 2009)**

in honor of Philip A. Hastings (b. 1951), Scripps Institute of Oceanography, thesis advisor of the first author, and who initially aroused his curiosity in clingfishes

***Lissonanchus luseri* Smith 1966**

in honor of Mrs. D. N. Lusher of Brakpan, South Africa, for collecting type and sending it to Smith [preferably spelled *lusberae* since name honors a woman, but ICZN 32.5.1 forbids such a correction]

***Pheralodichthys* Shiogaki & Dotsu 1983**

Pheralodus, presumed to be related to that genus; *ichthys*, fish

***Pheralodichthys meshimaensis* Shiogaki & Dotsu 1983**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Meshima Island, part of the Danjo Islands, off west coast of Kyushu, Japan, type locality

***Pheralodus* Briggs 1955**

phero-, to bear; *allos*, different; *odous*, tooth, referring to a single row of compressed, incisor-like teeth in each jaw (different from patches of conical teeth seen in most other genera in the subfamily)

***Pheralodus indicus* (Weber 1913)**

Indian, believed to have been first member of its genus, *Crepidogaster* (= *Aspasmogaster*), from the Indo-Australian Archipelago

***Propherallodus* Shiogaki & Dotsu 1983**

pro-, before, forward or in front of; *Pheralodus*, a related genus, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to preopercular sensory canal openings, absent on *Pheralodus*

***Propherallodus briggsi* Shiogaki & Dotsu 1983**

in honor of John C. “Jack” Briggs (1920-2018), then at the University of South Florida, for “valuable” suggestions on the determination of *P. briggsi* as an undescribed species and his “critical reading” of the authors’ manuscript

***Propherallodus longipterus* Fujiwara & Motomura 2019**

longus, long; *pterus*, fin, referring to longer dorsal and anal fins compared to *P. briggsi*

***Propherallodus smithi* (Briggs 1955)**

in honor of ichthyologist-chemist J.L.B. Smith (1897-1968), Rhodes University (Grahamstown, South Africa), who “kindly” sent specimens of rare clingfishes to Briggs; “It is fitting that this African species be named after one who has contributed so much to the ichthyology of the area.”

***Rhinolepadichthys* Fujiwara, Motomura, Summers & Conway 2024**

rhinos, nose, referring to their pointed snout; *Lepadichthys*, a related genus without a pointed snout

***Rhinolepadichthys geminus* (Fujiwara & Motomura 2021)**

Latin for twin or double, referring to two yellow stripes under the abdomen and its close morphological similarity to *L. lineatus*, with which it had previously been identified

***Rhinolepadichthys heemstraorum* (Fujiwara & Motomura 2021)**

-orum, commemorative suffix, plural: in honor of the late Phillip C. Heemstra (1941-2019), South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, an “esteemed” ichthyologist, and his wife Elaine, who collected type specimens and those of *L. polyastrous*

***Rhinolepadichthys lineatus* (Briggs 1966)**

lined, referring to pattern of yellow-orange lines (white in alcohol) extending longitudinally along body

***Rhinolepadichthys polyastrous* (Fujiwara & Motomura 2021)**

poly, many; *astrous*, stars, referring to many characteristic yellow dots on body

Subfamily Gobiesocinae***Acyrtops* Schultz 1951**

ops, appearance, referring to similarity to (and previous confusion with) *Acyrtus*

***Acyrtops amplicirrus* Briggs 1955**

amplus, large; *cirrus*, curl or tendril (but in this case, per Briggs, meaning crest), referring to large crest on border of anterior nostril

***Acyrtops beryllinus* (Hildebrand & Ginsburg 1927)**

like the mineral beryl, referring to bright emerald-green color in life

***Acyrtus* Schultz 1944**

a-, without; *kyrtos*, curved, referring to what Schultz believed was the absence of a dorsal curve on premaxillary groove (a trait common to all American clingfishes except *Rimicola*) over snout of *A. rubiginosus*, which he mistakenly treated as a senior synonym of *Gobiesox beryllinus*; Schultz corrected his error in 1951 by proposing *Acyrtops* for *G. rubiginosus*, thereby creating in *Acyrtus* a genus whose name refers to a character it does not possess

***Acyrtus artius* Briggs 1955**

perfect, referring to presence of papillae in “disc region C” (unlike *A. rubiginosus*)

***Acyrtus arturo* Tavera, Rojas-Vélez & Londoño-Cruz 2021**

in honor of marine biologist Arturo Acero Pizarro (b. 1954), Universidad Nacional de Colombia, for his contributions to the knowledge of neotropical fishes, and for mentoring many generations of ichthyologists, including the senior author [a noun in apposition, without the genitive “i”]

***Acyrtus lanthanum* Conway, Baldwin & White 2014**

to lie hidden or escape notice, referring to how it had previously been confused with a close relative, *A. artius*

***Acyrtus pauciradiatus* Sampaio, de Anchieta, Nunes & Mendes 2004**

paucus, few; *radiatus*, rayed, referring to fewer dorsal-, anal- and pectoral-fin rays compared to congeners

***Acyrtus rubiginosus* (Poey 1868)**

rusty, referring to its reddish color (also has a red border around eyes)

***Acyrtus simon* Gasparini & Pinheiro 2022**

in honor of “ichthyologist friend” Thiony Emanuel Simon, “who dedicated his career to study reef fishes, especially the fish biodiversity of the Vitória-Trindade Chain” (western Atlantic), where this clingfish occurs [a noun in apposition, without the genitive “i”]

***Arcos* Schultz 1944**

bow, referring to arched groove at tip of snout

***Arcos decoris* Briggs 1969**

ornamented, elegant or beautiful, allusion not explained, described as “very pale and translucent with no signs of pigmentation” in alcohol

***Arcos erythroptus* (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)**

erythroptus, red; *ops*, eye, referring to eyes “intensely cherry red, their upper border blackish”

***Arcos nudus* (Linnaeus 1758)**

bare or naked, referring to smooth, scaleless body (a trait common to all clingfishes), compared to the Lumpfish, *Cyclopterus lumpus*, its presumed congener at the time

***Arcos poecilophthalmos* (Jenyns 1842)**

poecilio-, varicolored; *ophthalmos*, eye, referring to traces of blue and golden pink in iris of type specimen in spirits, which must have been “very brilliant” in life

***Arcos rhodospilus* (Günther 1864)**

rhodo-, rosy; *spilos*, spot, referring to dark-rose transverse spots, each having an edge of deep-red dots, on a rose-colored body

***Derilissus* Briggs 1969**

dere, neck or throat; *lissos*, smooth or polished, referring to absence of gill-membrane fold across throat of *D. nanus*

***Derilissus altifrons* Smith-Vaniz 1971**

altus, high or tall; *frons*, forehead, referring to nearly vertical lateral profile of snout, forming nearly a right angle with ventral profile of head

***Derilissus kremnobates* Fraser 1970**

kremnos, cliff or precipice; *bates*, a frequenter, referring to type locality, a nearly vertical slope (60-85°) at Arrowsmith Bank, Caribbean Sea

***Derilissus lombardii* Sparks & Gruber 2012**

in honor of contract diver Michael Lombardi (b. 1979), who collected type as member of deep-diving team in the Bahamas

***Derilissus nanus* Briggs 1969**

dwarf, with apparently mature adults ranging from 11.3 to 14.0 mm SL

***Derilissus vittiger* Fraser 1970**

vitta, band or stripe; *-iger*, to bear, referring to five scarlet-red lines on head

***Gobiesox* Lacepède 1800**

combination of *gobius*, referring to what Lacepède perceived as its “many connections” (translation, i.e., close relationship) with gobies, and *esox*, pike (Esociformes), referring to pike-like posterior placement of dorsal fin, near the tail

***Gobiesox adustus* Jordan & Gilbert 1882**

brown or swarthy, referring to any or all of the following: brown body, banded with blackish; head marbled with darker brown; front of dorsal black; fins dusky with dark points

***Gobiesox aethus* (Briggs 1951)**

of a red-brown color, referring to very small red-brown dots covering dorsal and lateral surfaces

***Gobiesox barbatus* Starks 1913**

diminutive of *barbatus*, bearded, i.e., a small beard, referring to thick barbels or fleshy papillae on lips and scattered over anterior portion of lower head

***Gobiesox canidens* (Briggs 1951)**

canis, dog; *dens*, tooth, referring to large canine teeth in lower jaw

***Gobiesox cephalus* Lacepède 1800**

head, referring to large head, wider than body

***Gobiesox crassicarpus* (Briggs 1951)**

crassus, thick or heavy; *corpus*, body, referring to its deep body, 4.3 in SL compared to 5.0-6.5 in *G. multitentaculus* and *G. papillifer*

***Gobiesox daedaleus daedaleus* Briggs 1951**

spotted or dappled, referring to dorsal and lateral sides even covered with small, close-set, light-brown spots

***Gobiesox daedaleus boreus* Briggs 1955**

northern, presumably referring to its distribution, slightly north of *G. d. brachysoma*

***Gobiesox daedaleus brachysoma* Briggs 1951**

brachys, short; *soma*, body, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its “fairly depressed” body, its depth 6.5 (6.0-7.0) in SL

***Gobiesox eugrammus* Briggs 1955**

eu-, well or very; *gramme*, line (but in this case, per Briggs, meaning letter, mark or picture), allusion not explained, presumably referring to pale and translucent body with “only a few pigment spots in the form of small, dark-brown dots scattered over the dorsal surface and on the vertical fins,” and several such dots at base of pectoral fin

***Gobiesox fluviatilis* Briggs & Miller 1960**

of a river, referring to its occurrence in high mountain streams

***Gobiesox fulvus* Meek 1907**

brownish yellow, referring to nearly uniform brownish coloration

***Gobiesox funebris* Gilbert 1890**

funereal, i.e., clothed in black, referring to “dark olive-brown to black” body color above, blackish below

***Gobiesox juniperoserrai* Espinosa Pérez & Castro-Aguirre 1996**

in honor of Junípero Serra, born Miguel José Serra Ferrer (1713-1784), Jesuit missionary, evangelizer, and explorer of the Alta and Baja California region of México (where this clingfish is endemic)

***Gobiesox juradoensis* Fowler 1944**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Río Juradó, Chocó Province, Colombia, type locality

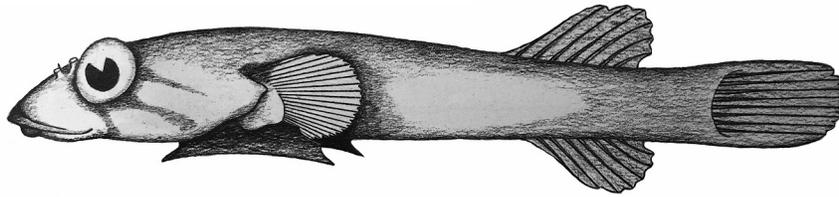
***Gobiesox lanceolatus* Hastings & Conway 2017**

spear-like, referring to its lanceolate caudal fin

***Gobiesox lucayanus* Briggs 1963**

-anus, belonging to: Lucayan Indians, who inhabited the Bahamas (where this clingfish is endemic) when Columbus

- landed there on 12 October 1492
- Gobiesox maeandricus* (Girard 1858)**
meandering, allusion not explained; according to Jordan & Evermann (1898), referring to brownish-orange “reticulated streaks” all over body described as a “beautiful mesh work of black lines” by Girard)
- Gobiesox marijeanae* Briggs 1960**
in honor of the yacht *Marijean*, owned by Canadian forester and philanthropist H. R. MacMillan (1885-1976), for the “many valuable fish collections which have been made during the cruises of this vessel to the tropical Eastern Pacific,” including type of this clingfish
- Gobiesox marmoratus* Jenyns 1842**
marbled or mottled, presumably referring to light-brown body color, “reticulated with black: the reticulations have a tendency to form three or four broad fasciae across the back”
- Gobiesox mexicanus* Briggs & Miller 1960**
Mexican, referring to its distribution in Pacific Slope streams of Guerrero, Jalisco, Nayarit and Oaxaca
- Gobiesox milleri* Briggs 1955**
in honor of ichthyologist Robert Rush Miller (1916-2003), University of Michigan, who noted the unusual appearance of the holotype and “kindly” sent it to Briggs for examination
- Gobiesox multitentaculus* (Briggs 1951)**
multi-, many; *tentaculus*, tentacled, referring to well-developed papillae on head, some of them forming finger-like projections
- Gobiesox nigripinnis* (Peters 1859)**
nigri-, black; *pinnis*, fin, referring to black (or dark) dorsal, anal and caudal fins (with white edges)
- Gobiesox papillifer* Gilbert 1890**
papillo, papilla; *-iger*, to bear, referring to fleshy papillae on lips and lower anterior side of head
- Gobiesox pinniger* Gilbert 1890**
pinnis, fin; *fero*, to bear, allusion not explained but probably referring to longer dorsal fin (16-17 rays vs. 4-13) compared to congeners
- Gobiesox potamius* Briggs 1955**
of a river, referring to its freshwater habitat
- Gobiesox punctulatus* (Poey 1876)**
diminutive of *punctum*, spot, referring to brown body covered with black dots
- Gobiesox rhessodon* Smith 1881**
rhesso, to make ragged; *odon*, tooth, presumably referring to tricuspid incisors of lower jaw, the central cusp longest [author is Rosa Smith Eigenmann]
- Gobiesox schultzi* Briggs 1951**
in honor of Leonard P. Schultz (1901-1986), Curator of Fishes at the U. S. National Museum, for his “significant” 1944 revision of American clingfishes, which “brought order out of a group which was almost hopelessly confused”
- Gobiesox stenocephalus* Briggs 1955**
stenos, narrow; *cephalus*, head, referring to “short and narrow” head with a “rather long” snout
- Gobiesox strumosus* Cope 1870**
strumose, i.e., swollen like a tumor, referring to wide head, “produced by a large fleshy mass which extends from the end of the prominent extremity of the maxillary bone to the end of the interoperculum”
- Gobiesox varius* (Briggs 1955)**
different, referring to its “peculiar” sexual dimorphism, in which lower pectoral- and ventral-fin rays of males are considerably elongated and swollen at the tips
- Gobiesox woodsii* (Schultz 1944)**
in honor of Loren P. Woods (1914-1979), Curator of Fishes, Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago), who tentatively suggested this species was undescribed when he learned that Schultz was studying American clingfishes (Schultz did not honor Woods as a curator but as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve)
- Rimicola* Jordan & Evermann 1896**
rima, crevice; *cola*, to inhabit, allusion not explained, presumably referring to habitat of *R. muscarum*, said by Jordan & Evermann (1898) to live “below tide marks,” and said by Briggs (1955) to inhabit kelp beds
- Rimicola cabrilloi* Briggs 2002**
in honor of Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo (1497-1543), the first European to view the California coast; he is reputed to have been buried at San Miguel Island, which lies within this clingfish’s range



Tomicodon eos rhadinus. From: Briggs, J. C. 1955. A monograph of the clingfishes (Order Xenopterygii). *Stanford Ichthyological Bulletin* v. 6: i-iv + 1-224.

***Rimicola dimorpha* Briggs 1955**

di-, two; *morpha*, form, referring to urogenital papillae, “relatively enormous” in males, their length about equal to depth of body in region of anus

***Rimicola eigenmanni* (Gilbert 1890)**

in honor of ichthyologist Carl H. Eigenmann (1863-1927)

***Rimicola muscarum* (Meek & Pierson 1895)**

of flies, allusion not explained, according to Jordan & Evermann (1898) referring to brownish-red fly-speck markings on upper body

***Rimicola sila* Briggs 1955**

silus, snub-nosed, referring to “cut-off appearance” of snout

***Sicyases* Müller & Troschel 1843**

sikya, cupping glass (or suction cup), referring to cup-like adhesive disc

***Sicyases brevirostris* (Guichenot 1848)**

brevis, short; *rostris*, snout, referring to short, blunt and conical snout

***Sicyases hildebrandi* Schultz 1944**

in honor of Samuel F. Hildebrand (1883-1949), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for his “numerous and valuable” contributions to ichthyology; in addition, Hildebrand, while working on his 1946 monograph on the shore fishes of Peru, noticed that this species was new and suggested that Schultz describe it

***Sicyases sanguineus* Müller & Troschel 1843**

blood-red, referring to mottled reddish-brown body coloration

***Tomicodon* Brisout de Barneville 1846**

tomikos, incisor; *odon*, tooth, referring to four pairs of incisors at front of each jaw of *T. chilensis*

***Tomicodon absitus* Briggs 1955**

distant, referring to its isolated distribution (known only from the Revillagigedo Islands, off western México)

***Tomicodon abuelorum* Szelistowski 1990**

-orum, commemorative suffix, plural: *abuel*, Spanish for grandparent, in honor of the author’s grandparents, Irma Drescher and Martha and Telford Whitaker, for the role they played in his development of an appreciation for nature, and their support for his attempt to pursue that interest professionally

***Tomicodon australis* Briggs 1955**

southern, proposed as a southern (Atlantic off southeastern Brazil) subspecies of *T. fasciatus*

***Tomicodon bidens* Briggs 1969**

bi-, two; *dens*, teeth, referring to simple or bifid rather than trifid incisors

***Tomicodon boehlkei* Briggs 1955**

in honor of ichthyologist James E. Böhlke (1930-1982), Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, for his kindness in making an extensive collection of clingfishes in the Gulf of California during the 1952 Sefton-Stanford Orca Expedition

***Tomicodon briggsi* Williams & Tyler 2003**

in honor of John C. “Jack” Briggs (1920-2018), Georgia Museum of Natural History, for his “pioneering” 1955 monograph on clingfish systematics

***Tomicodon chilensis* Brisout de Barneville 1846**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Valparaiso, Chile, type locality (but no types known)

***Tomicodon clarkei* Williams & Tyler 2003**

in honor of Raymond D. Clarke, Sarah Lawrence College (Bronxville, New York, USA), who collected type during his studies of the behavioral ecology of chaenopsid blennies at Carrie Bow Cay, Belize

***Tomicodon cryptus* Williams & Tyler 2003**

hidden or secret, referring to its cryptic coloration, which conceals specimens in their habitat

***Tomicodon eos eos* (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)**

after Eos, goddess of morning-glow, referring to bright rosy-red color

***Tomicodon eos rhadinus* Briggs 1955**

slender or tapering, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to more slender caudal peduncle compared to *T. e. eos*

***Tomicodon fasciatus* (Peters 1859)**

banded, presumably referring to heavy, blackish (or dark-brown) bars on sides

***Tomicodon humeralis* (Gilbert 1890)**

pertaining to the shoulder (humerus), referring to conspicuous round humeral spot, larger than eye, black in life with golden reflections

***Tomicodon lavettsmithi* Williams & Tyler 2003**

in honor of C. Lavett Smith (1927–2015), Emeritus Curator of Ichthyology at the American Museum of Natural History, for his many contributions to the systematics and behavioral ecology of Caribbean reef fishes and for his leadership of the Pelican Cays fish survey, during which most of the known specimens of this species were collected

***Tomicodon leurodiscus* Williams & Tyler 2003**

leuros, smooth; *discus*, plate, referring to smooth anterior margin of adhesive disc

***Tomicodon myersi* Briggs 1955**

in honor of Stanford University ichthyologist George S. Myers (1905–1985), for his many contributions to the knowledge of the fishes of the Eastern Pacific, and for his assistance with Briggs' monograph

***Tomicodon petersii* (Garman 1875)**

in honor of Wilhelm C. H. Peters (1815–1883), the “very eminent zoologist ... of Berlin”

***Tomicodon prodomus* Briggs 1969**

running before, preceding or early, considered to be the most primitive member of its genus

***Tomicodon reitzae* Briggs 2001**

in honor of anthropologist and zooarchaeologist Elizabeth J. Reitz, Director, Georgia Museum of Natural History (where Briggs worked); the “museum is a university- and state-supported institution where research collections are maintained and systematic work is encouraged” [originally spelled *reitzii*; since name honors a woman, *reitzae* reflects the correct gender]

***Tomicodon rhabdotus* Smith-Vaniz 1969**

striped, referring to distinctive pattern of narrow, pale, vertical stripes on posterior half of body

***Tomicodon rupestris* (Poey 1860)**

rock-dwelling, “found in the hollows of the rocks along the sea” (translation), i.e., rocky surge-zone habitat

***Tomicodon vermiculatus* Briggs 1955**

vermiculated (wormy), referring to fine network of vermiculations on dorsum

***Tomicodon zebra* (Jordan & Gilbert 1882)**

referring to its banded (i.e., zebra-like) coloration

Subfamily *Incertae sedis****Aspasmogaster* Waite 1907**

asposmos, an embrace; *gaster*, belly, allusion not explained, probably referring to how clingfishes firmly cling to loose stones between the tide marks by means of an adhesive disc on their ventral surface

***Aspasmogaster costata* (Ogilby 1885)**

ribbed, referring to 10 “strongly marked vertical ridges on each side, caused by the contraction of the muscles after death, but not present in the living fish”

***Aspasmogaster liorhynchus* Briggs 1955**

leios, smooth; *rhynchus*, snout, referring to lack of accessory fold of tissue across tip of snout, the region behind premaxillary groove being smooth

***Aspasmogaster occidentalis* Hutchins 1984**

western, referring to its geographical distribution (western side of Western Australia)

***Aspasmogaster tasmaniensis* (Günther 1861)**

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Tasmania, Australia, type locality (also occurs in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia)

Conidens Briggs 1955

conus, cone; *dens*, teeth, referring to patches of small, conical teeth toward front of each jaw

Conidens laticephalus (Tanaka 1909)

latus, wide; *cephalus*, head, “its width about 4 in length as measured to root of middle caudal rays”

Conidens samoensis (Steindachner 1906)

-ensis, suffix denoting place: Upolu, Samoa Islands, type locality (occurs in Western Pacific from New Caledonia, New Hebrides and Fiji, north to Samoa)

Creocele Briggs 1955

kreas, flesh; *kele*, a swelling, referring to swollen, fleshy pad on lower pectoral base

Creocele cardinalis (Ramsay 1882)

red, referring to “rich salmon red” color in spirits

Modicus Hardy 1983

ordinary, referring to “rather ordinary” appearance of members of this genus

Modicus minimus Hardy 1983

smallest, referring to small size of adults (up to 34.1 mm SL)

Modicus tangaroa Hardy 1983

named for the New Zealand Ministry of Transport research vessel *Tangaroa*, from which four of the six type specimens were collected