



## New records of *Oxycheilinus samurai* (Perciformes: Labridae) from Indonesia and New Caledonia

by

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**Résumé.** – Nouveaux signalements pour l'espèce *Oxycheilinus samurai* (Perciformes: Labridae) en Indonésie et en Nouvelle-Calédonie.

*Oxycheilinus samurai* Fukui, Muto & Motomura, 2016, préalablement connue aux Philippines et au Japon (spécimens types), et en Indonésie par des observations basées sur des photographies subaquatiques, est signalée en Nouvelle-Calédonie pour la première fois (photographies subaquatiques). Ce signalement représente une extension significative de l'aire de répartition de cette espèce vers l'est. Un unique individu de petite taille a été collecté en Indonésie et identifié comme *O. samurai*, ce qui représente le premier signalement dans cette région fondé sur un spécimen.

**Key words.** – Labridae - *Oxycheilinus samurai* - Indonesia - New Caledonia - Range extension - New records.

The Indo-Pacific labrid genus *Oxycheilinus* Gill, 1862 includes ten valid species, all characterized by IX, 10 dorsal-fin rays, III, 8 anal-fin rays, a moderately shallow body (depth less than head length), interrupted lateral line, 6 predorsal scales, cheek and opercle with two rows of scales, ventral and posterior margins of preopercle naked, and anterior tip of lower jaw extending beyond anterior tip of upper jaw (Gill, 1862; Westneat, 2001; Randall and Khalaf, 2003; Kuitert, 2012; Fukui *et al.*, 2016). The western Pacific species *Oxycheilinus samurai* was originally described by Fukui *et al.* (2016) from five specimens collected from the Philippines and Japan, the authors also identifying underwater photographs of an un-named labrid species from Java, Bali, Kalimantan and Sulawesi, Indonesia identified by Kuitert and Tonozuka (2004), Kuitert and Debelius (2006), and Kuitert (2012), as this species.

Subsequently, underwater photographs of an unidentified labrid, taken on 5 April 2015 by R. Bajol at 28–30 m depth in Prony Bay, New Caledonia, and sent to the authors, were identified as *O. samurai*. The photographs represent the first record of the species from New Caledonia, being both the easternmost and southernmost for this species.

In addition, a single Indonesian specimen of *O. samurai*, found in the fish collection of the Western Australian Museum, represents the first specimen-based record of the species from Indonesia and is described below.

Counts and measurements followed Fukui *et al.* (2016). Pectoral-fin rays, pored lateral-line scales and gill rakers were counted on both sides of the body. Measurements were made on the left side using digital calipers and rounded to the nearest 0.05 mm. Standard length is abbreviated as SL. Institutional abbreviations follow Sabaj (2016). The Indonesian specimen (WAM P. 32973-003, 46.3 mm

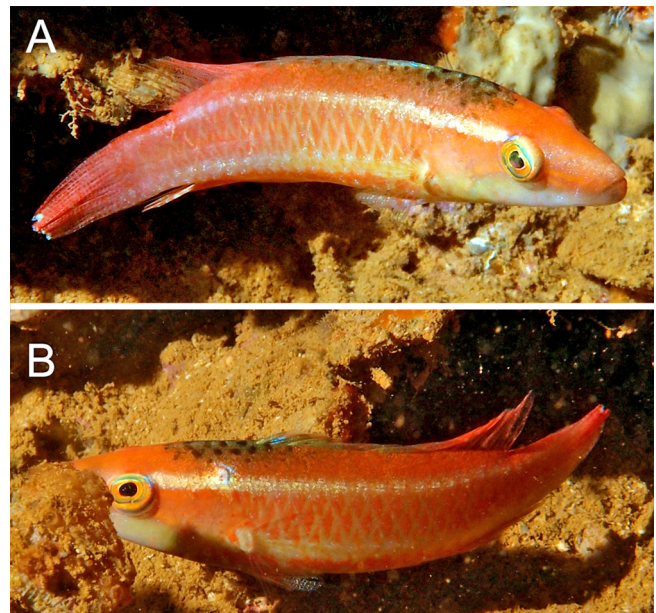


Figure 1. – Underwater photographs of *Oxycheilinus samurai* from Prony Bay, New Caledonia, 25–30 m depth. Photo: R. Bajol.

SL) was collected by G. Allen from Tanjung Bobo, Payo Bay, Halmahera, Indonesia (01°03'N, 127°27'E) at a depth of 10–50 m on 14 April 2008.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The photographed individual from New Caledonia (Fig. 1) was identified as *Oxycheilinus samurai* based on the following characters: short rounded snout; elongate red body, slightly compressed anteriorly; whitish lower jaw; small elongated yellow pupil with green edge; a large deep green smudge anterodorsally on body from nape to middle of dorsal-fin base; a bluish-green blotch on basal membrane between first and second dorsal-fin spines (Fig. 1B); and posterior margin of caudal fin white (Fig. 1A) – all characters described for *O. samurai* by Fukui *et al.* (2016).

*Oxycheilinus samurai* is most similar to *O. orientalis* (Günther, 1862), widely distributed in the western Pacific Ocean (and Red Sea) (Randall and Khalaf, 2003; Fukui *et al.*, 2016). However, the checklists of New Caledonian fishes by Rivaton *et al.* (1990) and Kulbicki and Wantiez (1990) both listed *O. orientalis* without any

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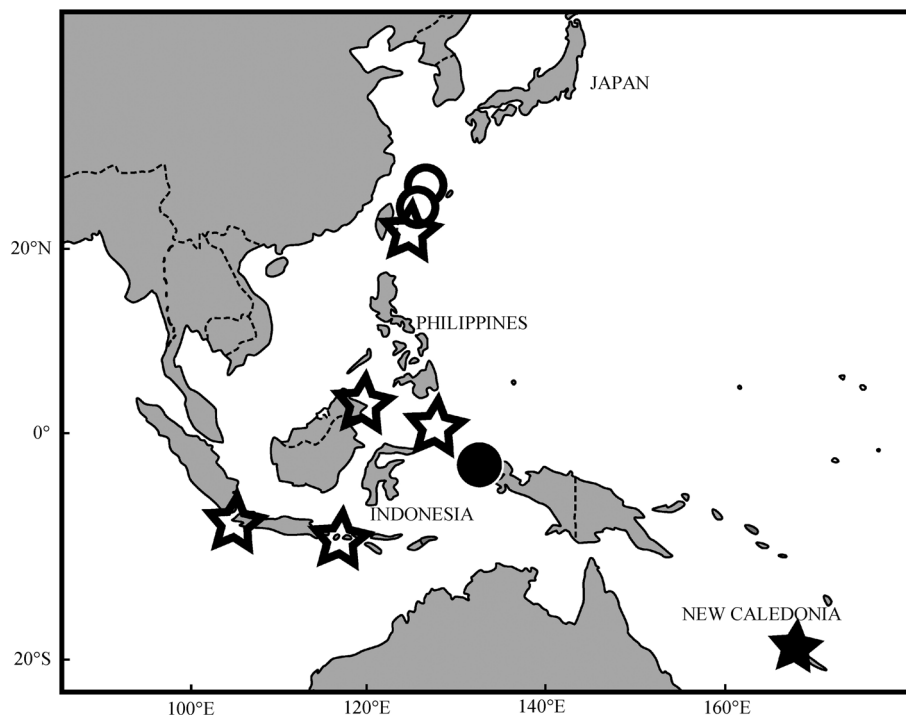


Figure 2 – Distributional records of *Oxycheilinus samurai*. Circles and stars indicate specimen- and photograph-based records, respectively. Open and closed symbols indicate previously published records and new records, respectively.



Figure 3. – Preserved specimen of *Oxycheilinus samurai* from Payo Bay, Halmahera, Indonesia (WAM P. 32973-003, 46.3 mm SL).

supporting evidence, and the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD N<sup>lle</sup> Calédonie) material forming the basis of Fricke *et al.* (2011) report of *O. orientalis* from New Caledonia was not available for this study. Regardless of whether or not previous records of *O. orientalis* may have in fact included *O. samurai*, the photographs from Prony Bay represent the first evidence of *O. samurai* from New Caledonia and suggest that the species is widely distributed in the western Pacific Ocean (Fig. 2).

The following characters of the Indonesian specimen (WAM P. 32973-003, 46.3 mm SL; Fig. 3), the first known voucher specimen from the Indonesian region, agree well with the diagnosis of *O. samurai* provided by Fukui *et al.* (2016): IX, 10 dorsal-fin rays; III,8 anal-fin rays; 12 pectoral-fin rays; lateral line interrupted, 13 anterior series of pored lateral-line scales, eight posterior series of pored lateral-line scales; two scale rows above lateral line; six scale rows below lateral line; six pre-dorsal-fin scale rows; seven gill rakers on upper limb, eight on lower limb; snout profile rounded, maximum circumference 53.5% of SL; interorbital width 8.0% of SL; large black smudge with scattered small black spots from nape to middle of dorsal fin; black blotch on basal half of mem-

brane between first and second dorsal-fin spines; and black blotches below anterior portion of lateral-line anterior series.

A small variation in the ninth dorsal-fin spine length proportion, noted between the present specimen (16.6% of SL) and the original description of the species (10.7-15.0% of SL), is possibly a growth-related variation, the Indonesian specimen being significantly smaller than other measured specimens (63.7-99.1 mm SL).

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