

## ***Eviota hoesei* and *E. readerae*, New Species of Fish from the Southwest Pacific, With Comments on the Identity of *E. corneliae* Fricke (Perciformes: Gobiidae)**

ANTHONY C. GILL<sup>1</sup>\* AND SUSAN L. JEWETT<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fish Research Group, Department of Zoology,  
The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, England

Current address: School of Life Sciences,  
PO Box 874501, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ 85287-4501, United States of America  
Anthony.Gill@asu.edu

<sup>2</sup> Division of Fishes, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History,  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, United States of America  
jewett.susan@nmnh.si.edu

**ABSTRACT.** *Eviota hoesei* n.sp. is described from specimens from New Caledonia, Lord Howe Island (type locality), Norfolk Island, and Middleton and Elizabeth Reefs. It is distinguished from congeners in having the following character combination: dorsal-fin rays usually VI + I,9; anal-fin rays usually I,8; at least some pectoral-fin rays branched; cephalic sensory-pore system pattern 2; base of pectoral fin with two diffuse to prominent dark spots; fifth segmented pelvic-fin ray present, usually about 1/10 length of fourth ray; and 6 subcutaneous bars/spots on lower postanal trunk. *Eviota readerae* n.sp. is described from specimens from Middleton (type locality) and Elizabeth Reefs. It is distinguished from congeners in having the following combination of characters: dorsal-fin rays VI + I,9; anal-fin rays I,8; at least some pectoral-fin rays branched; fifth segmented pelvic-fin ray lacking; cephalic sensory-pore system pattern 1; male genital papilla non-fimbriate; 12–13 dark bars or saddles on trunk from origin of spinous dorsal fin to mid peduncular spot, not extending below midline; and pectoral-fin base with prominent circular dark spot dorsally. *Eviota corneliae* Fricke is placed in synonymy with *Trimmatom eviotops* (Schultz).

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*Eviota* Jenkins (1903) is a genus of small, reef-associated gobiids found throughout the Indo-Pacific. It is distinguished from other gobiid genera by the following combination of characters (Lachner & Karnella, 1980): small adult size (females usually sexually mature at less than 15 mm SL); pelvic fins separate, a fine fragile

membrane joining bases, fraenum absent; pelvic-fin rays I,4 or I,5, the fifth segmented ray (when present) a simple rudiment or an unbranched ray; fourth segmented pelvic-fin ray multi-branched; trunk usually with dark subcutaneous spots or bars; first dorsal fin with 6 spines; scales ctenoid, fewer than 30 in lateral series, absent from head,

\* author for correspondence