Order PERCIFORMES (part 11)
Suborder PLATYCEPHALOIDEI
5 families · 25 genera · 128 species

Family BEMBRIDAE Deepwater Flatheads
3 genera · 9 species

*Brachybembras* Fowler 1938
brachys, short, related to *Bembras* but with a shorter snout (shorter than eye)

*Brachybembras aschemeieri* Fowler 1938
in honor of Charles R. W. Aschemeier (1892-1973), taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum, who has secured many fishes for that museum's collection (but not this species)

*Parabembras* Bleeker 1874
para-, near; *Bembras*, original genus of *P. curta*

*Parabembras curta* (Temminck & Schlegel 1843)
short, presumably referring to shorter snout compared with *Bembras japonica*, its presumed congener at the time

*Parabembras multisquamata* Kai & Fricke 2018
multi-, many; squamatus, scaled, referring to high number (40-44) of pored lateral-line scales

*Parabembras robinsoni* Regan 1921
in honor of John Benjamin Romer Robinson (1869-1949), South African attorney, businessman and recreational angler, who provided type to the British Museum
Family PLATYCEPHALIDAE Flatheads

18 genera · 86 species

**Ambiserrula** Imamura 1996

_ambi_- , around; _serrula_, little saw, referring to finely serrated suborbital ridge

**Ambiserrula jugosa** (McCulloch 1914)

mountainous (i.e., with peaks and ridges), allusion not explained, perhaps referring to rough head, with a “series of three to four ridges diverging backward from the base of a small spine behind the eye on each side”

**Cociella Whitley 1940**

_ella_, diminutive of: replacement name for _Cocius_ Jordan & Hubbs 1925, preoccupied by _Cocius_ Navás 1921 in insects, original etymology not explained, presumably a latinization of _kochi_, also spelled _gochi_, a general name in Japanese for species of Platycephalidae and Callionymidae (Syngnathiformes)

**Cociella crocodilus** (Cuvier 1829)

crocodile, referring to “crocodile-like flathead” (translation), from illustration caption in Tilesius 1814 (date sometimes given as 1812, but 1814 is on cover); since 1814 name is printed in Cyrillic letters, it is not available

**Cociella hutchinsi** Knapp 1996

in honor of ichthyologist J. Barry Hutchins (b. 1946), Western Australian Museum, who has provided “substantial assistance to the author’s studies of Australian flatheads”

**Cociella martingomoni** Imamura & Aungtonya 2020

in honor of Martin F. Gomon (b. 1945), senior curator of fishes, Museum of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia), “who has contributed greatly to ichthyology”

**Cociella punctata** (Cuvier 1829)

spotted, referring to small dark brown-red dots (in alcohol) on head (also on sides)

**Cociella somaliensis** Knapp 1996

_-ensi_, suffix denoting place: Somalia, off whose shores all but one of the known specimens were captured (also occurs off Oman)

**Cymbacephalus** Fowler 1938

cymba, cavity; _cephalus_, head, referring to large deep pit behind each eye of _C. nematophthalmus_

**Cymbacephalus beauforti** (Knapp 1973)

in honor of the late Lieven Ferdinand de Beaufort (1879-1968), University of Amsterdam, who, “in addition to his many notable contributions to ichthyology, at the age of 88 wrote a most informative and encouraging letter” to Knapp concerning the need for a revision of the Platycephalidae

**Cymbacephalus boschel** (Bleeker 1860)

in honor of Jules Felicien Romain Stanislas van den Bossche (1819-1889), Dutch colonial administrator and resident of Banka Island, Indonesia, type locality, who provided holotype

**Cymbacephalus nematophthalmus** (Günther 1860)

_nemato_- , thread; _ophthalmus_, eye, referring to tentacle of “moderate length above the orbit”

**Cymbacephalus parilis** McCulloch 1914

like (i.e., similar), “closely allied” to _Inegocia japonica_ and _I. quoyi_ (= _Cociella punctata_), its presumed congeners at the time, “but apparently differs from all in the relative sizes of the eye and the snout, and in the colour marking”

**Elates** Jordan & Seale 1907

Greek for leader or driver, allusion not explained nor evident

**Elates ransonnetii** (Steindachner 1876)

in honor of Eugen von Ransonnet-Villez (1838-1926), Austrian diplomat, painter, lithographer, biologist and explorer, who sent a collection of fishes from Singapore, including type of this one

**Grammoplites** Fowler 1904

gramme, line; _hoplites_, armed, referring to lateral line of _G. scaber_ “armed with spines”

**Grammoplites knappi** Imamura & Amaoka 1994

in honor of platycephalid systematist Leslie W. Knapp (1929-2017), Smithsonian Institution

**Grammoplites scaber** (Linnaeus 1758)

rough, referring to each scale with a backward directed spine that extends beyond rear margin of scale, especially along caudal peduncle
**Grammoplites suppositus** (Troschel 1840)
substituted, essentially a replacement name for three specimens that had been misidentified as *Platycephalus scaber*

**Grammoplites vittatus** Valenciennes 1833
banded, described as having three pale bands on body in life, the first on occiput, the second at base of first ray of second dorsal fin, the third on tail

**Inegocia Jordan & Thompson 1913**
latinization of *Inegobi*, "rice flathead," Japanese common name for *I. japonica; gobi*, also spelled *kochi*, is a general name in Japanese for species of Platycephalidae and Callionymidae (Syngnathiformes)

**Inegocia harrisii** (McCulloch 1914)
in honor of entomologist Ronald Hamlyn-Harris (1874–1953), Director of the Queensland Museum, to whom McCulloch was “indebted for much valuable assistance when working at the collections under his charge”

**Inegocia japonica** (Cuvier 1829)
Japanese, no type locality stated but probably from Nagasaki, Japan (occurs in eastern Indian Ocean and western Pacific Ocean from Sri Lanka and Myanmar east to Philippines, north to southern Sea of Japan, south to northern Australia)

**Inegocia ochiaii** Imamura 2010
in honor of Akira Ochiai (1923–2017), Kochi University, for his many contributions to fish taxonomy, including those for the Platycephalidae

**Insidiator Jordan & Snyder 1900**
ambusher or lurker, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to ambush-style feeding behavior of platycephalids, burying themselves in the sand with only their eyes exposed, waiting for prey to swim or crawl by, and then striking rapidly, engulfing the prey in their large mouths (name may have been inspired by *Cottus insidiator* Forsskål 1775, a junior synonym of *Platycephalus indicus*)

**Insidiator cooperi** (Regan 1908)
in honor of paleontologist Clive Forster Cooper (1880–1947), a member of 1900 expedition to the Indian Ocean, during which type was collected

**Insidiator macracanthus** (Bleeker 1869)
macro-, long or large; acanthus, thorn or spine, referring to longer opercular spine compared with *Platycephalus bobosok (=Sunagocia carbunculus)*, its presumed congener at the time

**Insidiator meerdervoortii** (Bleeker 1860)
in honor of Johannes Lijdius Catharinus Pompe van Meerdervoort (1829–1908), Dutch physician based in Nagasaki, Japan, who collected fishes for Bleeker, although it is not clear if he collected this one

**Kumococius Matsubara & Ochiai 1955**
latinization of *Kumogochi*, "cloud flathead," Japanese name for *K. detrusus (=rodericensis); gochi*, also spelled *kochi*, is a general name in Japanese for species of Platycephalidae and Callionymidae (Syngnathiformes)

**Kumococius rodericensis** (Cuvier 1829)
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Rodrigues, one of the Mascarene Islands, although type locality is Reunion Island (occurs in Indo–West Pacific from Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and western Mascarenes east to Philippines, north to southern Japan, south to northern Australia)

**Leviprora Whitley 1931**
levis, smooth; prora, prow, presumably referring to “No exposed bony ridges on upper surface of cranium” of *L. inops*

**Leviprora inops** (Jenyns 1840)
poor, weak or helpless, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to smooth head, “with hardly anything deserving the name of spines, excepting only a small flat spine terminating the opercle, and a minute but sharp one on the upper ridge of the scapula,” and/or “very short and inconspicuous” preopercular spines

**Leviprora semermis** (De Vis 1883)
etymology not explained, perhaps semi-, half; -ermis, armed, referring to smooth head but spined opercle and preopercle

**Onigocia Jordan & Thompson 1913**
latinization of *Onigogochi*, "devil flathead," Japanese common name for *O. spinosa; gochi*, also spelled *kochi*, is a general name in Japanese for species of Platycephalidae and Callionymidae (Syngnathiformes)

**Onigocia bimaculata** Knapp, Imamura & Sakashita 2000
br-, two; maculata, spotted, referring to two dark spots “readily visible” on first dorsal fin

**Onigocia grandisquamis** (Regan 1908)
grandis, large; squamis, scales, referring to larger scales than presumed congener in *Platycephalus*
Onigocia lacrimalis Imamura & Knapp 2009
lacrical, referring to "characteristic absence of distinct antrorse lachrymal spines"

Onigocia macrocephala (Weber 1913)
macro-, long or large; cephalus, head, comprising nearly ½ TL

Onigocia macrolepis (Bleeker 1854)
macro-, long or large; lepis, scale, referring to larger scales compared with the similar O. spinosa

Onigocia oligolepis (Regan 1908)
oiliger, few; lepis, scale, referring to large (and therefore fewer) scales (31 in a longitudinal series)

Onigocia pedimacula (Regan 1908)
ped, foot; macula, spot, allusion not explained but described as closely related to O. oligolepis, which has a dusky spot on each ventral fin

Onigocia sibogae Imamura 2011
of the Siboga, vessel from which type specimens were collected, Siboga Expedition (1898-1899) [replacement name for Platycephalus grandisquamis Weber 1913, preoccupied by P. grandisquama (now O. grandisquama) Regan 1908]

Onigocia spinosa (Temminck & Schlegel 1843)
spiny, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to any or all of the following: 3–6 preocular spines, three preopercular spines at angle of preopercle, anterior 8–15 scales bearing spines

Platycephalus Bloch 1795
platys, flat; cephalus, head, referring to their wide, flattened head, hence the common name “flathead”

Platycephalus angustus Steindachner 1866
narrow, presumably referring to width of head relative to known congeners, described as 1½ times in HL

Platycephalus aurimaculatus Knapp 1987
aureus, golden; maculatus, spotted, referring to “distinctive” golden spots on body and fins

Platycephalus australis Imamura 2015
southern, referring to Australia (Queensland to Western Australia), where it appears to be endemic

Platycephalus bassensis Cuvier 1829
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Bass Strait, Victoria, Australia, type locality (also occurs off New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia)

Platycephalus caeruleopunctatus McCulloch 1922
caeruleus, blue; punctatus, spotted, referring to blue (variably pale blue to whitish or red) spots on a brownish body

Platycephalus chauliodous Knapp 1991
chaulus, prominent; odus, tooth, referring to prominent canine teeth

Platycephalus conatus Waite & McCulloch 1915
an attempt, effort, undertaking, enterprise or endeavor, allusion not explained nor evident

Platycephalus cultellatus Richardson 1846
having a cuttelle, or cutlass, allusion not explained nor evident

Platycephalus endrachtensis Quoy & Gaimard 1825
-ensis, suffix denoting place: Eendraghtsland, an early name for Australia, referring to type locality at Shark Bay, Western Australia

Platycephalus fuscus Cuvier 1829
dusky, referring to its “darker shades” (translation) compared with congeners known to Cuvier

Platycephalus grandispinis Cuvier 1829
grandis, large; spinis, spine, referring to greatly enlarged lower preopercular spine, much longer than upper spine, almost reaching rear margin of gill cover

Platycephalus indicus (Linnaeus 1758)
Indian, probably referring to Indian Ocean of Asia, proposed in Callionymus (Syngnathiformes: Callionymidae), then known only from the eastern Atlantic
Platycephalus laevigatus Cuvier 1829
smoothed, referring to smooth head, without ridges or spines

Platycephalus marmoratus Stead 1908
marbled, referring to back and sides “richly marbled with red and white (giving a fairly-close resemblance to polished red Moruya granite)”

Platycephalus orbitalis Imamura & Knapp 2009
of the orbis, Latin for eye, referring to narrower interorbit compared with P. marmoratus

Platycephalus richardsoni Castelnau 1872
in honor of surgeon-naturalist John Richardson (1787-1865), who proposed P. tasmanius (=bassensis) in 1842

Platycephalus speculator Klunzinger 1872
explorer, searcher or investigator, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to “much larger” (translation) eyes compared with P. insidiator (=indicus)

Platycephalus westraliae (Whitley 1938)
of Western Australia, where type locality (Swan River estuary) is situated (also occurs in New South Wales and across northern Australia, and southern coasts of Papua New Guinea and Java)

Ratabulus Jordan & Hubbs 1925
etymology not explained, but since name was also spelled Ratabulus by the authors, probably from rutabulum, Latin for shovel, referring to shovel-nosed head of R. megacephalus

Ratabulus diversiens (McCulloch 1914)
diversus, different; dens, teeth, referring to teeth “larger than usual in the genus,” then placed in Insidiator

Ratabulus fulvíguttatus Imamura & Gomon 2010
fulvus, brownish yellow; guttatus, spotted, referring to small reddish-brown or brown spots on dorsal surface of head and body

Ratabulus megacephalus (Tanaka 1917)
megar-, large; cephalus, head, referring to larger head compared with presumed congeners in Thysanophrys

Ratabulus ventralis Imamura & Gomon 2010
ventral, referring to long ventral (pelvic) fin (26.2-28.2% SL)

Rogadius Jordan & Richardson 1908
latinization of rogad, Arabic name of Platycephalus indicus

Rogadius asper (Cuvier 1829)
rough, referring to “roughness and asperities of its skull and several other parts of its head” (translation)

Rogadius fehlmanni Knapp 2012
in honor of ichthyologist–herpetologist Herman Adair Fehlmann (1917-2005), Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center, “dedicated and intrepid collector of fishes,” who collected holotype in 1964

Rogadius mcgrourtheri Imamura 2007
in honor of Mark McGrouther (b. 1958), Collection Manager, Ichthyology, Australian Museum (AMS), who “variously supported” Imamura’s work when he visited AMS, during which he found specimens of this species; “I could not have completed my work at AMS without his support”

Rogadius patriciae Knapp 1987
in honor of Patricia J. Kailola, The University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji), for her many contributions to the knowledge of the fishes of northwestern Australia and southern Indonesia
Rogadius pristiger (Cuvier 1829)
*pristis*, saw; *-iger*, to carry, referring to finely serrated bony ridges on head

Rogadius serratus (Cuvier 1829)
Toothed like a saw, referring to finely serrate supraorbital and suborbital ridges

Rogadius welanderi (Schultz 1966)
in honor of fisheries biologist Arthur D. Welander (1908-1982), University of Washington (Seattle, USA), who was at Bikini Atoll during the summers 1946-49, studying the radiation effects on living fishes

Solitas Imamura 1996
from the Latin *solitarius*, alone, referring to isolated distribution of *S. gruveli* (along eastern Atlantic coast of Africa, including São Tomé and Príncipe)

Solitas gruveli (Pellegrin 1905)
in honor of biologist Jean Abel Gruvel (1870-1941), who collected type

Sorsogona Herre 1934
*-ana*, belonging to: Sorsogon Province, Luzon Island, Philippines, type locality of type species, *S. serrulata* (=*tuberculata*)

Sorsogona humerosa Knapp & Heemstra 2011
pertaining to the shoulder, referring to characteristic dark blotches on humeral area under opercle

Sorsogona melanoptera Knapp & Wongratana 1987
*melanos*, black; *pterus*, finned, referring to first dorsal fin dusky with dark spots along sides

Sorsogona nigripinna (Regan 1905)
*niger*, black; *pinna*, finned, referring to “blackish” fins

Sorsogona portuguesa (Smith 1953)
Portuguese, presumably referring to Mozambique (type locality), then an overseas province of Portugal

Sorsogona prionota (Sauvage 1873)
Jagged or serrated, presumably referring to finely serrate body ridges above and below eye

Sorsogona tuberculata (Cuvier 1829)
tuberculate, referring to bony tubercles on opercular scales and top of head

Sunagocia Imamura 2003
Latinization of *sunagochi*, Japanese name of type species, *S. arenicola*, from *suna*, sand, and *gochi*, also spelled *kochi*, a general name in Japan for species of Platycephalidae and Callionymidae (Syngnathiformes)

Sunagocia arenicola (Schultz 1966)
*arena*, sand; *colere*, to inhabit, presumably referring to its occurrence in loose sandy areas between coral heads

Sunagocia carbunculus (Valenciennes 1833)
carbuncle, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to the “strength and quantity of the thorns [spines] that bristle the head” (translation)

Sunagocia omanensis Knapp & Randall 2013
*-ensis*, suffix denoting place: Oman, where type locality and only known area of occurrence (Kuria Muria Islands) is situated

Sunagocia otaitensis (Cuvier 1829)
*-ensis*, suffix denoting place: Otaheite, now known as Tahiti, South Pacific, type locality (occurs in Indo-West Pacific from South Africa, East Africa, Madagascar and western Mascarenes east to Marshall Islands and Pitcairn Group, north to southern Japan and Ogasawara islands, south to Australia, New Caledonia and Tonga)

Sunagocia sainsburyi Knapp & Imamura 2004
in honor of marine biologist Keith J. Sainsbury (b. 1952), collector of holotype and other flatheads later during the F/V *Soela* cruises

Thysanophrys Ogilby 1898
*thysanos*, fringe; *ophrys*, eyebrow, referring to series of dermal appendages above eye of *T. cirronasus*

Thysanophrys armata (Fowler 1938)
Armed, referring to "strong" armature (spines) of the head

Thysanophrys celebica (Bleeker 1855)
*cecas*, belonging to: Manado, Celebes (now Sulawesi), Indonesia, type locality (occurs in Indo-West Pacific from East Africa, Madagascar and Persian Gulf east to Solomon Islands, north to Izu Islands of Japan, south to northern Australia)

Thysanophrys chiltonae Schultz 1966
Eponym not explained, probably in honor of the USS *Chilton*, which hosted survey team led by Schultz studying
reef fishes after the Bikini Atoll (Marshall Islands) nuclear tests

**Thysanophrys cirronasus** (Richardson 1848)
*cirrus*, curl or tendril; *nasus*, nose, referring to “pointed thin membranous barbel” on anterior nostril

**Thysanophrys longirostris** (Shao & Chen 1987)
*longus*, long; *rostris*, snout, referring to “relatively” longer snout compared with most other platycephalids

**Thysanophrys papillaris** Imamura & Knapp 1999
*–is*, genitive singular of: *papilla*, nipple, referring to characteristic small papilla on upper surface of eye

**Thysanophrys randalli** Knapp 2013
in honor of John E. Randall (1924-2020), Bishop Museum (Honolulu), who collected many of the flatheads included in Knapp’s study

**Thysanophrys rarita** Knapp 2013
rare or scarce, known only from holotype collected off Somalia

**Thysanophrys springeri** Knapp 2013
in honor of ichthyologist Victor G. Springer (b. 1928), U.S. National Museum, who collected holotype and five paratypes from several localities off Massawa, Eritrea, in 1969

**Thysanophrys tricaudata** Knapp 2013
*tri*-, three; *caudata*, tailed, referring to three dark bars on caudal fin

Family **HOPLICHTHYIDAE** Ghost Flatheads

1 genus · 17 species

**Hoplichthys** Cuvier 1829
*boplo*-, armed, presumably referring to series of large bony plates on body of *H. langsdorfii*, each armed with two spines; *ichthys*, fish [spelled *Oplichthys* in text, *Hoplichthys* in table of contents; spelling with “H” is in prevailing usage]

**Hoplichthys acanthopleurus** Regan 1908
*acanthus*, thorn or spine; *pleurus*, side, referring to 27 scutes in a longitudinal series along sides, each scute with a well-developed spine and a second very small spine below

**Hoplichthys citrinus** Gilbert 1905
like a citron (a lemon-like fruit), referring to color in life, “very bright lemon-yellow or olive-yellow on all upper parts, including fins”

**Hoplichthys fasciatus** Matsubara 1937
banded, referring to back and sides crossed with four brownish-black bars, the last one markedly darker

**Hoplichthys filamentosus** Matsubara & Ochiai 1950
with filaments, referring to fifth and sixth pectoral-fin rays prolonged into filaments

**Hoplichthys gilberti** Jordan & Richardson 1908
in honor of ichthyologist, fisheries biologist and Jordan’s Stanford University colleague Charles H. Gilbert (1859-1928)

**Hoplichthys gregoryi** (Fowler 1938)
in honor of zoologist William K. Gregory (1876-1970), American Museum of Natural History

**Hoplichthys haswelli** McCulloch 1907
in honor of Scottish-born Australian zoologist William Aitcheson Haswell (1854-1925), leader of expedition during which type was collected

**Hoplichthys imamurai** Nagano, McGrouther & Yabe 2013
in honor of Hisashi Imamura, Hokkaido University Museum (Hakodate, Japan), for his “great” contribution to the systematics of the Platyccephaloidei, including Hoplichthidae

**Hoplichthys langsdorfii** Cuvier 1829
in honor of Georg Heinrich von Langsdorff (1774-1852), Prussian naturalist and diplomat in Japan, who collected and/or supplied type

**Hoplichthys mcgroutheri** Nagano, Imamura & Yabe 2014
in honor of Mark McGrouther (b. 1958), Collection Manager, Ichthyology, Australian Museum (AMS), for his “valuable” contributions to the taxonomy of Hoplichthidae

**Hoplichthys mimaseanus** Nagano, Endo & Yabe 2013
*anus*, belonging to: Mimase fish market, Kochi City, Kochi Prefecture, Japan, where holotype was collected

**Hoplichthys ogilbyi** McCulloch 1914
in honor of ichthyologist James Douglas Ogilby (1853-1925), Queensland Museum (Australia)
Hoplichthys pectoralis (Fowler 1943)
pectoral, referring to “greatly developed” pectoral fins

Hoplichthys platophrys Gilbert 1905
platys, wide; ephrys, eyebrow, referring to “much wider” interorbital space compared with H. citrinus

Hoplichthys prosemion (Fowler 1938)
pro-, forward; semeion, banner, referring to long spinous dorsal fin with 5th to 8th rays prolonged as filaments

Hoplichthys regani Jordan 1908
in honor of ichthyologist Charles Tate Regan (1878-1943), Natural History Museum (London), who informed Jordan that H. langsdorfii as identified in Jordan & Richardson 1908 represented a distinct species

Hoplichthys smithi (Fowler 1938)
in honor of ichthyologist Hugh M. Smith (1865-1941), who collected type

Family PLECTROGENIIDAE Stinger Flatheads
2 genera · 13 species

Bembradium Gilbert 1905
-ium, adjectival suffix, i.e., Bembras-like, presumed to be related to Bembras (Bembridae) and Parabembras (Parabembridae)

Bembradium furici Fourmanoir & Rivaton 1979
in honor of Pierre Furic, commander of the trawler Vauban, which obtained around 10 new species, including this one, via deep trawling in the Philippines, New Caledonia and Madagascar

Bembradium magnoculum Kishimoto, Kawai, Tashiro & Aungtonya 2019
magnus, large; oculum, eyed, referring to its large eyes (13.2% SL)

Bembradium roseum Gilbert 1905
rosy, referring to reddish upper body color in life, “the red color intensified on cheeks, on opercles, in a blotch under spinous dorsal, one under soft dorsal and one on caudal peduncle; soft dorsal and caudal barred with red, and translucent, anal and spinous dorsal uniform red; pectorals marked with irregular red blotches; ventrals silvery, tinged with red”

Plectrogenium Gilbert 1905
pectrum, spur; gecion, chin or cheek, referring to “series of very strong spines along sides of head” of P. nanum

Plectrogenium barsukovi Mandrytsta 1992
in honor of Vladimir Viktorovich Barsukov (1922-1989), “well-known” (translation) Soviet researcher of scorpaenoid fishes

Plectrogenium capricornis Matsunuma, Uesaka, Yamakawa & Endo 2021
-ri, genitive singular of: Capricorn, referring to Tropic of Capricorn, which crosses its type locality; in addition, capricorn is Latin for “having horns like a goat,” referring to its relatively long parietal spines
Plectrogenium kamoharai Uesaka, Yamakawa, Matsunuma & Endo 2021
in honor of Japanese ichthyologist Toshiji Kamohara (1901-1972), Kochi University, for his “great” contributions to the ichthyology of Japan, especially in Tosa Bay, type locality of this species

Plectrogenium kanayamai Uesaka, Yamakawa, Matsunuma & Endo 2021
in honor of Japanese ichthyologist Tsutomu Kanayama, Hokkaido University, the first to recognize the uniqueness of this species (in 1982)

Plectrogenium longipinnis Matsunuma, Uesaka, Yamakawa & Endo 2021
longus, long; pinnis, fin, referring to its long anal fin (presumably last soft ray of anal fin (15.1–18.3% of SL)

Plectrogenium megalops Matsunuma, Uesaka, Yamakawa & Endo 2021
megas, large; opis, eye, referring to relatively large eye (orbit diameter 15.0–17.0% of SL)

Plectrogenium nanum Gilbert 1905
dwarf, presumably referring to small size (reaching 7.7 cm SL) compared with presumed closest relatives in Sebastosomus (=Neosebastes, Scorpaenoidei: Neosebastidae), which range from 19-50 cm TL

Plectrogenium occidentale Matsunuma, Uesaka, Yamakawa & Endo 2021
western, the western-most species of the genus [originally spelled occidentalis; emended to agree with neuter gender of genus]

Plectrogenium rubricauda Uesaka, Yamakawa, Matsunuma & Endo 2021
rubri-, red; cauda, tail, referring to “broadly reddish” caudal fin

Plectrogenium serratum Matsunuma, Uesaka, Yamakawa & Endo 2021
serrated, referring to serrated posterior suborbital spines and several opercular margin spines