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A New Species of the Anglerfish Genus *Lophiocharon* Whitley (Lophiiformes: Antennariidae) from Australian Waters

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ABSTRACT. A new species of the antennariid anglerfish genus *Lophiocharon*, *L. hutchinsi*, is described on the basis of nine specimens collected from Western Australia, Northern Territory, and Queensland, and from the Aru Islands, Indonesia. It differs from its congeners in having a combination of features that includes a reduced esca, scarcely, if at all, differentiated from the illicium, and a relatively short illicium covered from base to tip with small dermal spinules.

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Within the material of the anglerfish genus *Lophiocharon* Whitley, examined by Pietsch & Grobecker (1987) in their revision of the anglerfish family Antennariidae, are five specimens that do not conform to the diagnosis of either of the two recognized species of the genus, *Lophiocharon trisignatus* (Richardson, 1844) and *Lophiocharon lithinostomus* (Jordan & Richardson, 1908). Uncomfortable at the time about describing a new species based on only a few small individuals, the material was labelled *Lophiocharon* sp. and set aside pending additional specimens (Pietsch & Grobecker, 1987: 231). As in *L. lithinostomus*, the illicium of these unidentified specimens is covered with dermal spinules and the esca is very much reduced or absent, yet the length of the illicium is considerably less than that of both *L. lithinostomus* and *L. trisignatus*. The recent discovery of four additional specimens that compare very well to the original five prompted the following description.

Materials and methods

Standard lengths (SL) are used throughout. Terminology used to describe the parts of the angling apparatus follows Bradbury (1967). Illicium length is measured from the point of articulation of the pterygiophore of the illicium and the illicial bone to the distal surface of the esca excluding escal appendages or filaments. All other methods follow those used by Pietsch & Grobecker (1987). Material is deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney (AMS), the Western Australian Museum, Perth (WAM), and the Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam (ZMA).