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Two New Soleid Flatfishes (Pleuronectiformes: Soleidae: *Soleichthys*) from Australian Waters, With a Re-description of *Soleichthys microcephalus* (Günther)

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ABSTRACT. *Soleichthys microcephalus* (Günther, 1862) occurring in warm temperate waters off New South Wales, Australia, is re-described based on examination of a syntype and additional non-type material. This species differs from congeners in its combination of: low meristic features (43–45 vertebrae, 71–84 dorsal-fin rays, 61–71 anal-fin rays, and 81–89 lateral-line scales); in having two elongated ocular-side pectoral-fin rays of nearly equal length; with small scales present on the ocular-side pectoral-fin base and proximal halves of elongated pectoral-fin rays; in its ocular-side pigmentation consisting of a series of 8–10 mostly complete, bold, wide, dark-brown or blackish crossbands of nearly uniform width throughout their lengths and noticeably wider than the alternating lighter-coloured crossbands; and with two, conspicuous, mid-lateral white spots arranged in horizontal series. Two new species phenotypically most similar to, and with meristic features that largely overlap those of *S. microcephalus*, are described from specimens collected in tropical waters of northern Australia. *Soleichthys serpenpellis* n.sp., known from the Gulf of Carpentaria and Delambre Island, Dampier Archipelago, northwestern Australia, is easily distinguished from *S. microcephalus* and other congeners by its ocular-side head and body pigmentation featuring incomplete, diamond-shaped crossbands broadest in their mid-sections, fewer (about 6) ocular-side body crossbands, and with small, brown spots scattered in the interspaces between the crossbands. *Soleichthys oculofasciatus* n.sp. occurs off northeast Australia and is distinguished from congeners in its combination of a first elongate ocular-side pectoral-fin ray longer than the second, in lacking scales on the ocular-side pectoral-fin base and elongate pectoral-fin rays, in having a longitudinal series of crossbands (usually 11) on the ocular-side head and body, and with four conspicuous white spots on the body, two of which are arranged in a vertical series at mid-body. The new species differs further from both *S. microcephalus* and *S. serpenpellis* in having a longer and narrower head and a longer caudal fin.

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