

**Two New *Microbrotula* (Teleostei: Ophidiiformes: Bythitidae)
from the Southwestern Pacific Ocean, with a
Revised Key to the Species**

M. Eric Anderson

*South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity, Private Bag 1015,
Grahamstown 6140, South Africa
E-mail: E.Anderson@ru.ac.za*

(Received 17 August 2006; Accepted 28 November 2006)

Two new species of livebearing brotula of the genus *Microbrotula* Gosline are described from the tropical southwestern Pacific. *Microbrotula greenfieldi* sp. nov., from Fiji, is distinguished from its congeners by lacking head pores, its retrograde pelvic fins, relatively high pectoral fin ray count, low vertebral count, short pectoral fin, and dorsal fin origin above the eighth vertebra. *Microbrotula punicea* sp. nov., from the Kermadec Islands, is distinguished from its congeners by the presence of four preoperculomandibular pores, its high vertebral and pectoral fin ray counts, advanced pelvic fins, long pectoral fin, and dorsal fin origin above the ninth vertebra.

Key Words: Teleostei, Ophidiiformes, Bythitidae, *Microbrotula*, new species, Kermadec Islands, Fiji, South Pacific Ocean, key.