

## IDENTIFICATION LEVELS

As of July 1993, specimens in the Australian National Fish Collection will be identified to one of five levels of reliability depending on the taxonomic expertise of the identifier involved and their intentions. A general definition of these levels follows:

- Level 1:** *Highly reliable identification* — Specimen identified by (a) an internationally recognised authority of the group, or (b) a specialist that is presently studying or has reviewed the group in the Australian region.
- Level 2:** *Identification made with high degree of confidence at all levels* — Specimen identified by a trained identifier who had prior knowledge of the group in the Australian region or used available literature to identify the specimen.
- Level 3:** *Identification made with high confidence to genus but less so to species* — Specimen identified by (a) a trained identifier who was confident of its generic placement but did not substantiate their species identification using the literature, or (b) a trained identifier who used the literature but still could not make a positive identification to species, or (c) an untrained identifier who used most of the available literature to make the identification.
- Level 4:** *Identification made with limited confidence* — Specimen identified by (a) a trained identifier who was confident of its family placement but unsure of generic or species identifications (no literature used apart from illustrations), or (b) an untrained identifier who had/used limited literature to make the identification.
- Level 5:** *Identification superficial* — Specimen identified by (a) a trained identifier who is uncertain of the family placement of the species (cataloguing identification only), (b) an untrained identifier using, at best, figures in a guide, or (c) where the status & expertise of the identifier is unknown.