

On the correct spelling of *Pycnocraspedum rowleyense* Schwarzhans, Psomadakis & Nielsen, 2025 (Ophidiidae)

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Schwarzhans, Psomadakis & Nielsen (2025) describe *Pycnocraspedum rowleyensis*. The etymology states that the name *rowleyensis* is “named after the Rowley Shoals, Western Australia, from where the holotype was obtained.” However, no explanation was provided for the use of the masculine/feminine adjectival ending *-ensis* instead of the neuter *-ense*, which would be required to agree in gender with the generic name *Pycnocraspedum* (ICZN, 1999: Article 31.2). Although the Rowley Shoals were named after a Capt. Rowley (King, 1826), the grammatical gender of a Latin adjectival species-group name must match the generic name, not the gender of the semantic referent. As in other congeners (e.g., *P. fulvum*, Machida, 1984), the adjectival ending should reflect the neuter gender of *Pycnocraspedum*.

Accordingly, the correct spelling of the name is: *Pycnocraspedum rowleyense* Schwarzhans, Psomadakis & Nielsen, 2025.

References

- ICZN (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. 4th Edition*. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, 306 pp.
- King, PP (1826) *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia, performed between the years 1818 and 1822. eBook Edition*. Project Gutenberg, London, Published 21 February 2004. Available from: <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11203/pg11203.txt> (accessed 8 August 2025)
- Schwarzhans, W.W., Psomadakis, P.N. & Nielsen, J.G. (2025) Revision of the bathydemersal fish genus *Pycnocraspedum* (Ophidiidae; Teleostei), with description of two new species. *Zootaxa*, 5636 (3), 443–472.
<https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5636.3.2>