

***Hydrolagus matallanasi* sp. nov. (Holocephali, Chimaeridae) a new species of rabbitfish from southern Brazil**

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Abstract

Hydrolagus matallanasi sp. nov., the first species of the genus in the southwest Atlantic, is described from 21 specimens collected on the continental slope of southern Brazilian at 416–736 m depth. This new species can be distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: an irregular brown coloration with reticulations and spots over the body; ventral surface whitish, including pectoral bases; proximal margin of the second dorsal fin whitish; tooth plates striped and bicolor, yellowish and gray; length of dorsal fin spine equal to or a slightly longer than head length; pectoral fin notably long, its tip extending beyond posterior margin of pelvic fin base; upper margin of second dorsal fin notably concave at middle region of second dorsal fin base; second dorsal fin with minimum height less than half of its maximum height (located at points anterior and posterior to middle region of fin); eye length slightly smaller than preorbital length. The new species is compared to *H. mirabilis*, the most similar species from North Atlantic, and *H. alberti*, which occurs in the western Atlantic.

Key words: rabbitfish, chimaera, *Hydrolagus matallanasi*, Chimaeridae, Brazil

Introduction

The Chimaeridae comprise two genera, *Chimaera* with seven species and *Hydrolagus* with 15 species (Didier, 2004). The anal and caudal fins are clearly separated in *Chimaera* but not so in *Hydrolagus* (Bigelow and Schroeder, 1953; Didier, 1995, 1998). In the Atlantic, *Hydrolagus* is represented by four species: *H. affinis* (Brito Capello, 1868), from the North Atlantic; *H. alberti* Bigelow and Schroeder, 1951, from the western North Atlantic; *H. mirabilis* (Collett, 1904), from the North and Central Atlantic (also off western Africa, Gulf of Mexico, and northern coast of South America to Surinam); and *H. pallidus* Hardy