



A new species of scaly blenny of the genus *Labrisomus* (Actinopterygii: Labrisomidae) from the tropical West Atlantic

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Abstract

A new species of scaly blenny, *Labrisomus conditus* **sp. n.**, is described from Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, off northeastern Brazil. It differs from its Western Atlantic congeners by the following combination of characters: nuchal cirri when depressed not reaching dorsal-fin origin, 68 to 73 lateral line scales, first and second dorsal-fin spines slightly shorter than third spine and not flexible, numerous pale dots overall (light blue in life), opercular dark spot with incomplete and diffuse broad pale margin (orange in life). The new species is a territorial bottom-dweller in rocky shores and is found among algae and in crevices at depths from 0.5 to 6 m. *Labrisomus conditus* **sp. n.** feeds mostly on crustaceans (crabs, amphipods) and molluscs (snails, bivalves). The new species increases to five the species within the genus *Labrisomus* recorded from Southwestern Atlantic.

Key words: *Labrisomus*, new species, Labrisomidae, reef fish, oceanic islands, Southwestern Atlantic

Introduction

The Western Atlantic scaly blennies of the genus *Labrisomus* Swainson were reviewed by Hubbs (1953) and Springer (1959a) who recognized eight species. Since Springer's (1959a) revision two additional species were described from the Western Atlantic (Springer 1959b, Sazima *et al.* 2002). Herein we describe a new species of *Labrisomus* from Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, off northeastern Brazil, previously misidentified as *Labrisomus nuchipinnis* (Quoy & Gaimard) (Boulenger 1890, Springer 1959a, Soto 2001, Mendes 2006).

Material and methods

Counts and measurements follow Springer (1959a) and Sazima *et al.* (2002). For counts and proportions those of the holotype are given first, followed (in parentheses) by range and mean of 15 paratypes. Specimen lengths are all given as mm standard length (SL), and in the material examined parenthetical expressions give number of specimens followed by the size range and sex. Counts of nuchal, supra-orbital, and nasal cirri given for the holotype only; range for cirri not given as their number increases with specimen length (Springer 1959a). Color description is based mostly on specimens of the type series preserved in ethanol, and individuals observed alive in natural habitat. Institutional abbreviations are listed in Leviton *et al.* (1985)