



Two new records of uncommon deep-sea perciform fishes from the Southwestern Atlantic

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Abstract

This is the third in a series of reports describing new or rare records caught with circle hooks, a method only recently being employed in exploratory fishing in Brazilian deep waters. Here we report the presence of one family and two species of perciform fishes new to, or never formerly reported from, Brazilian waters: the longfin escolar, *Scombrobrax heterolepis* (Scombrobracidae), and the extremely rare ocean bass *Verilus sordidus* (Acropomatidae). The specimens were collected in outer shelf and slope areas at depths between 300 and 500 meters. Given the rarity of the species reported herein, we also provide an updated diagnosis for each species. We also discuss the need of adequate reports when new records are added to such a large ocean area as the Southwestern Atlantic.

Key words: *Scombrobrax*, *Verilus*, Acropomatidae, Scombrobracidae, deep-sea fishes, Brazil

Introduction

In the last decade, a steady increase of new records of marine fishes along the Brazilian coast has been observed. During this time, 38 new species were described and 11 revalidated, while at least another 40 species likely represent undescribed species and several works dealing with them are in preparation. In the same period dozens of described species were also added to the Brazilian fauna due to an increase of scientific expeditions and surveys, mainly the REVIZEE Program and the PROJETO TAMAR (e.g. Bernardes *et al.*, 2005; Caires *et al.*, 2008; Campos *et al.*, 2009; Carvalho-Filho *et al.*, 2009, 2010-A, 2010-B; Melo, 2009; Melo *et al.*, 2009; Mincarone *et al.*, 2008; Rotundo & Vaske, 2009; Santos *et al.*, 2009).

The Scombrobracidae is the only family that belongs to the perciform suborder Scombrobracoidei, and has one single, marine, almost worldwide species, *Scombrobrax heterolepis* Roule, 1921 (Nelson, 2006). The peculiar and unique swim bladder of the adults supports the placement of this monotypic species and family in a unique suborder (Bond & Uyeno, 1981). To date no adult specimens were ever formerly reported from Brazilian waters or the Western South Atlantic. Several larval and adult specimens collected off the Brazilian coast are deposited in institutions around the world and discussed below. The records formerly reported in this paper confirm the presence of the species in Brazil.

The ocean bass, *Verilus sordidus*, belongs to the usually deep-sea, pelagic, tropical to subtropical marine family Acropomatidae (Perciformes, Percoidei), which contains seven genera and 32 species (Heemstra, 2010) or eight genera and about 33 species depending on the classification used (Nelson, 2006). Several genera placed in Acropomatidae by Nelson (1994) are now recognized in other families (Polyprionidae and Symphysanodontidae; Nelson, 2006, and Howellidae; Froese & Pauly, 2010). The family had only three species reported from Brazil, all of the genus *Synagrops*: *S. bellus* (Goode & Bean, 1896), *S. spinosus* Schultz,