



New record of *Paralomis spinosissima* Birstein & Vinogradov (Decapoda: Anomura: Lithodidae) from Mar del Plata, Argentina

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Abstract

The lithodid crab *Paralomis spinosissima* is previously known only in Sub-Antarctic waters from South Georgia Island to the Drake Passage. Here we recorded a juvenile male obtained off shores of Mar del Plata (~37°S), Argentina. This new occurrence extends the distribution range of the species over 1300 km northwards in the Atlantic Ocean.

Key words: Anomura, Lithodidae, *Paralomis*, new records, taxonomy, Mar del Plata, Atlantic Ocean

Introduction

The Lithodidae Samouelle, 1819 is a large family of deep-water decapods worldwide, including hydrothermal vents environments and polar regions (Ahyong 2010). This family encompasses 123 species in 10 genera, from which the genus *Paralomis* White, 1856 is the most speciose represented by 68 valid species (McLaughlin 2014). Fewer than half of these species have been recorded from the Atlantic Ocean (Macpherson 1988b, 2003; Ahyong 2010).

Four species of deep-water lithodids *Paralomis*, are currently referred to the Atlantic coast of South America: *Paralomis anamerae* Macpherson, 1988; *Paralomis formosa* Henderson, 1988; *Paralomis granulosa* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1846); *Paralomis longidactylus* Birstein & Vinogradov, 1972 and *Paralomis spinosissima* Birstein & Vinogradov, 1972 (Macpherson 1988b; Boschi *et al.* 1992; Spivak 1997).

Paralomis spinosissima was described by Birstein & Vinogradov (1972) based on 17 specimens, including one male juvenile from northwest of South Georgia Island. Later, Macpherson (1988a) reported 16 specimens collected by the R/V *Eltanin* from Malvinas/Falkland Islands. In the subsequent years, other records of *P. spinosissima* were reported, and knowledge of biological aspects, such as population biology, distribution and fishery has been increased (Lopez-Abellán & Belguerías 1994; Otto & MacIntosh 1996, 2006; Reid *et al.* 2007; Griffiths *et al.* 2013). *Paralomis spinosissima* is regularly caught as by-catch in the commercial fishery for the Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides* at South Georgia shelf (Purves *et al.* 2003). Therefore, most information on this lithodid crab comes from that area.

The present work reports the occurrence of *Paralomis spinosissima* from Mar del Plata, not previously cited in this sector of the Atlantic Ocean and extends its range of geographic distribution 1300 km northward from the most recent record (Anosov *et al.* 2015).

Material and methods

Measurements are in millimetres (mm). Carapace length (cl) is measured from the base of the rostrum on the orbit side to the posterior margin of the carapace. Carapace width (cw) is the greatest width excluding lateral spines. The specimen is deposited in the collections of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Buenos Aires, Argentina (MACN-In). The terminology used follows Macpherson (1988a, 1988b) and Ahyong (2010).