

***Hydrolagus mccoskeni* sp. nov., a new species of chimaeroid fish from the Galápagos Islands (Holocephali: Chimaeriformes: Chimaeridae)**

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Abstract

A new species of chimaeroid, *Hydrolagus mccoskeri* sp. nov., is described from the Galápagos Islands. This species represents the second member of the family Chimaeridae known from the eastern equatorial Pacific. It can be distinguished from its congeners by a combination of the following characters: small head with short, blunt snout; preopercular and oral lateral line canals branching from the same node off the infraorbital canal and sharing a short common branch; dorsum medium brown with numerous narrow, sharply delineated circular and elongate white blotches; ventrum white to tan with extremely fine brown mottling. The species is compared to *Hydrolagus novaezealandiae* and *Hydrolagus colliei*, the most similar congeners in color pattern and morphology.

Key words: Chimaeriformes, Chimaeridae, *Hydrolagus*, Galápagos

Introduction

Chimaeroids are the extant members of the subclass Holocephali (living and fossil chimaeras or ratfishes) which, together with the Elasmobranchii (sharks, skates and rays), form the monophyletic class Chondrichthyes (Didier 1995; Grogan & Lund 2004; Maisey 1984, 1986; Schaeffer 1981). Their distribution is cosmopolitan with the exception of the Arctic and Antarctic oceans. At present there are 34 species described in the order Chimaeriformes (Compagno 2005), with as many as ten new species awaiting formal