



A new genus and species of eelpout (Teleostei: Zoarcidae) from Brazil

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The eelpout *Leucogrammolycus brychios* gen. et sp. nov., is described from nine specimens, five males (92–198 mm SL) and four females (99–205 mm SL), collected from off Rio de Janeiro state, southeastern Brazil, at depths from 536 to 632 m. It is mainly characterized by the following combination of characters: vertebrae 23–26 + 62–66 = 85–92; first anal-fin pterygiophore associated with first or second caudal vertebrae; scales absent; lateral line with mediolateral and ventral branches; upper lip broadly adnate to snout tip; gill slit not reaching ventrally to opposite lower end of pectoral-fin base; pelvic-fin rays 2; head pores relatively few, small, rounded; and whitish mid-body stripe forming a chevron on top of snout.

The major collection-building efforts promoted by Brazilian research cruises in the last decade resulted in the identification of several new species, including some deep-sea fishes. However, the Brazilian deep-sea fauna is so poorly known, that even the by-catch fishes landed by commercial fishing vessels still reveal the occurrence of undescribed species. Recently, a new zoarcid fish, *Pachycara alepidotum* Anderson & Mincarone, 2006, was described based on material trapped by a fishing vessel operating off southern Brazil (Anderson & Mincarone, 2006).

Now again, during bottom-trap commercial fisheries on the upper slope off southeastern Brazil, the fishing vessel *Royalist* captured seven specimens of an undescribed genus and species of zoarcid fish. These and other fishes were sent to the Museu Oceanográfico Univali (MOVI) by a fisherman as a donation. Two other very small specimens of the same species collected by the RV *Thalassa* off southeastern Brazil also came to our attention. They were part of the ophidiiform collection donated to MOVI and previously misidentified by onboard crew as “Ophidiidae”. The purpose of this paper is to describe this new genus and species.

The new species has been previously reported as “Espécie indeterminada 1” (unidentified species 1) by Bernardes *et al.* (2005: 242), based on five specimens (197–217 mm) collected off Cabo de Santa Marta, southern Brazil, at 490 m depth. Two other additional zoarcids were reported by the same authors as “Espécie indeterminada 2” and “Espécie indeterminada 3”. The former is *Pachycara alepidotum* and the latter is *Notolycodes schmidti* Gosztanyi, 1977. A fourth zoarcid known in Brazilian waters is *Iluocoetes fimbriatus* Jenyns, 1842, reported from the coast of Rio Grande do Sul (Lucena & Lucena, 1981: fig. 13; Figueiredo, 2003).

Measurements were made with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1 mm. Definitions of characters, their quantification and measurement follow Anderson (1994a). Counts of features of the axial skeleton were made from radiographs. Collections acronyms are MOVI (Museu Oceanográfico Univali, Itajaí, Brazil) and RUSI (South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity, Grahamstown, South Africa). Abbreviations in the description are: HL, head length and SL, standard length.

Leucogrammolycus gen. nov.

Diagnosis. A lycodine eelpout as defined by Anderson (1994a) with the following combination of characters: vertebrae 23–26 + 62–66 = 85–92; first anal-fin pterygiophore associated with first or second caudal vertebrae; scales absent; lateral line with mediolateral and ventral branches; upper lip broadly adnate to snout tip; gill slit not reaching ventrally to opposite lower end of pectoral-fin base; pelvic-fin rays 2; head pores relatively few, small, rounded; characteristic whitish mid-body stripe forming a chevron on top of snout.

Etymology. From the Greek λευκός (white), γραμμή (line) and λύκος (wolf; commonly used as a suffix for southern zoarcid genera), alluding to the characteristic white head and body striping.