



## Seven new species and one new species record of *Sabatieria* (Nematoda: Comesomatidae) from the continental slope of New Zealand

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### Abstract

*Sabatieria* is the most abundant nematode genus on the upper continental slope of New Zealand but no *Sabatieria* species have yet been recorded/described from the region's deep-sea habitats. The present study describes seven new and one known species of this genus from the continental margin of New Zealand. *S. bitumen* Botelho *et al.* 2007 was originally described from the South Atlantic Ocean, and is recorded from the first time in the Pacific Ocean. *Sabatieria challengerensis* sp. n. is characterised by a combination of short cephalic setae, large *fovea amphidialis* with 3 turns, short arcuate spicules without distal hook, and short tail with cylindrical proximal portion and blunt, rounded distal portion. *Sabatieria parapraedatrix* sp. n. is characterised by having a slender body, cuticle with striations resulting from fusion of every second lateral row of dots, *fovea amphidialis* with 2.0–2.5 turns, spicules with distal hook, and short conico-cylindrical tail. *Sabatieria bubulba* sp. n. is characterised by the presence of a large muscular pharyngeal bulb, secretory-excretory system with large ventral gland at level of intestine and with cuticularised pore opening. *Sabatieria exculpta* sp. n. is characterised by having a slender body, cuticle with faint annulations resulting from fusion of every second or third lateral row of dots, short cephalic setae, a large ventral gland, and long, narrow gubernacular apophyses. *Sabatieria balbutiens* sp. n. is characterised by having a dorsally-directed mouth opening and asymmetrical mouth cavity and spicules with small distal hook. *Sabatieria pumila* sp. n. is characterised by the combination of short body length, short cephalic setae, spicules with distal hook and short distal lamella, and 8–9 precloacal supplements. *Sabatieria bathycopia* sp. n. is characterised by having a stout body, short cephalic setae, curved gubernaculum, and spicules with swollen, lightly cuticularised distal tip.

**Key words:** Bathyal, biodiversity, Chatham Rise, Challenger Plateau, meiofauna