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A new species of the genus *Hypleurochilus* (Teleostei: Blenniidae) from Trindade Island and Martin Vaz Archipelago, Brazil

HUDSON T. PINHEIRO^{1,3}, JOÃO LUIZ GASPARINI¹ & CARLOS A. RANGEL²

¹ Departamento de Oceanografia e Ecologia, Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo. Av Fernando Ferrari, 514, CEP 29041-970, Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brasil. E-mail: hipinheiro@gmail.com; gaspa.vix@terra.com.br

² Pós-Graduação em Biologia Marinha, Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), Outeiro São João Batista, s/nº, CP: 100.644 - CEP: 24001-970, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. E-mail: carangel@ym.uff.br

³ Corresponding author

Abstract

A new species of the genus *Hypleurochilus*, endemic to Trindade Island and Martin Vaz Archipelago, off Brazil, is described. *Hypleurochilus brasil* sp. n. differs from its congeners in color pattern and anal-ray counts. A recent study shows a close relationship between *H. brasil* sp. n. and *H. fissicornis*. This new species is recorded from 3 to 15 m depth, solitary or in small groups (up to 10 individuals), always in small holes or associated with sea-urchins and sponges on the rocky reefs. *Hypleurochilus brasil* sp. n. is the eleventh recognized species of *Hypleurochilus* and the third species of this genus reported from the Brazilian Province.

Key words: combtooth blenny, endemism, oceanic islands, reef fish, South Atlantic

Introduction

Ten species of the genus *Hypleurochilus* Gill, 1861 are currently recognized as valid. All are restricted to the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. In the most recent review of the genus, Bath (1994) reports seven species from the western Atlantic: *H. bermudensis* Beebe & Tee-Van, 1933, *H. caudovittatus* Bath, 1994, *H. fissicornis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824), *H. geminatus* (Wood, 1825), *H. multifilis* (Girard, 1858), *H. pseudoaequipinnis* Bath, 1994 and *H. springeri* Randall, 1966. Three other species occur in the eastern Atlantic: *H. aequipinnis* (Günther, 1861), *H. bananensis* and *H. langi* (Fowler, 1923). Two species (*H. fissicornis* and *H. pseudoaequipinnis*) are known from Brazil (Bath 1994; Floeter *et al.* 2008; Rangel & Guimarães 2010). *Hypleurochilus bananensis* (Poll, 1959) is the only species of the genus that occurs in the Mediterranean Sea.

Trindade Island and the Martin Vaz Archipelago lie about 1 160 km off the Brazilian coast, making them the most remote islands of Brazil (Figure 1). Fringing reefs of encrusting coralline algae and rocky boulders compose the main shallow habitats of the islands, sheltering a high richness and biomass of reef fishes (Pinheiro *et al.* 2011). There are four species of Blenniidae known to occur at these islands (Gasparini & Floeter 2001; Pinheiro *et al.* 2009): *Ophioblennius trinitatis* Miranda Ribeiro, 1919; *Scartella poiti* Rangel, Gasparini & Guimarães, 2004, *Entomacrodus* sp. and *Hypleurochilus* sp.; the latter three being endemic to these islands. Herein, we describe the species of *Hypleurochilus* as new, it being the 11th (eleventh) recognized species of *Hypleurochilus* known from the Atlantic Ocean and the third from Brazilian waters.

Material and methods

All specimens were collected using hand nets. Methods of counting and measuring follow Bath (1994). Morphometric and meristic data for the type series are presented in Table 1 and counts of dorsal- and anal-fin rays for Brazilian species of *Hypleurochilus* are given in Table 2. In the description, meristic values for the holotype are