J. Appl. Ichthyol. 16 (2000), 39
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ISSN 0175-8659

Received: July 10, 1998
Accepted: December 3, 1998

Short Communication

On the South Atlantic distribution of *Callorhinchus callorhynchus* (Holocephali: Callorhynchidae)

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The four species of the family Callorhynchidae are restricted to the southern hemisphere (Didier 1995) and have the most littoral-related distribution among holocephalans.

Callorhinchus callorhynchus was first recorded in Argentine waters by Vaillant in 1891 sub *C. antarticus*, and from the mouth of the Santa Cruz River (Menni et al. 1984). Information on biology, fishery, biomass and distribution of *C. callorhynchus* is available in Bellisio et al. (1979), Menni and Gosztonyi (1982), Menni and López (1984), Di Giácomo and Perier (1991, 1994, 1996), Di Giácomo (1992), and Di Giácomo et al. (1994).

The northern Atlantic limit of *C. callorhynchus* is in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo (Figuereido 1977). Other reports from the Atlantic were those for the Río de la Plata (Ríos and Pereira 1986), and for several localities along the Bonarensean and Patagonian littoral (Bellisio et al. 1979; Menni et al. 1981; Menni and López 1984). On the basis of the results of the JAMARC expeditions (1976–79), Nakamura et al. (1986) reported a distribution which ranged from the Argentine-Chilean continental shelf to Chiloe Island, but not including the Beagle Channel.

Ríos and Pereira (1986) recorded this species for the Río de la Plata and for the littoral off the coasts of Uruguay and Argentina, on sandy and muddy bottoms at depths of 10–80 m Menni and López (1984) assigned *C. callorhynchus* to the group of the Atlantic inner shelf mixed fish fauna occurring at temperatures of 5–10°C and depths of 22–115 m, and noted an association with *Stromateus brasiliensis and Discopyge tschudii*. Di Giácomo (1992) reported on the vertical distribution of *C. callorhynchus* in the Argentine Sea, recording a depth limit of 116 m. On examining its reproductive biology in San Matías Gulf (Northern Patagonia), Di Giácomo and Perier (1994) collected egg cases at depths of from 20 to 40 m to 104 m, which would reflect the migration to shallow waters to breed. Subsequent reports for the gulf by divers and personal observation by one of the authors confirms that breeding takes place along the littoral at depths of 18–25 m.

Callorhinchus callorhynchus is herein first reported for the Beagle Channel on the basis of material collected at Puerto España (Argentine sector of the channel). Specimens (MLP 9285 and 9286), one 430 mm total length (TL) male and one 500 mm TL female were caught at 15 m depth by trawling nets during cruises performed within the framework of the project 'Biological basis for management of mixed catches of "centolla" and "centellón" crabs in the Beagle Channel' (G. Lavrich, collector)

The spelling herein applied for the generic name *Callorhinchus* follows Didier's (1995) nomenclatorial considerations.

The occurrence of *C. callorhynchus* in the Argentine sector of the Beagle Channel confirms the broad distribution range of this species, adding new elements to preceding zoogeographical proposals regarding the South American Atlantic littoral (e.g. Balech 1954; López 1963).

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