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NOTE

Overlooked records of four liparid species (Perciformes: Cottoidei) from Argentina, along with five varied reductions for Uruguay's marine ichthyofauna

Registros omitidos de cuatro especies lipáridas (Perciformes: Cottoidei) de Argentina, junto con cinco reducciones variadas para la ictiofauna marina de Uruguay

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Abstract

So far overlooked records from Argentina's Exclusive Economic Zone are being added to the national list of marine fishes: *Careproctus maculosus*, *C. minimus*, *C. stigmatogenus*, and *Paraliparis hubbsi*. For the current lack of reproducible proof five species need to be removed from Uruguay's marine ichthyofauna.

Keywords: Biodiversity, national faunal lists, reproducibility, scientific collections.

Resumen

Se señalan registros pasados por alto para la Zona Económica Exclusiva de Argentina, incorporados a la lista nacional de peces marinos: *Careproctus maculosus*, *C. minimus*, *C. stigmatogenus* y *Paraliparis hubbsi*. Debido a la actual falta de evidencia reproducible, se propone la eliminación de cinco especies de la ictiofauna marina de Uruguay.

Palabras clave: Biodiversidad, listas faunísticas nacionales, trazabilidad, colecciones científicas.

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National faunal lists are the basis for activities to which the signatory countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity are committed. These activities, among others, include monitoring and, if necessary for threatened species, the elaboration and implementation of action plans. Consequently, these lists must not only include those species documented from within the respective area of national jurisdiction, but also be cleansed of species that have been incorrectly included. To achieve both, scientifically verifiable evidence is required, which inevitably leads to the application of the concept of ‘double strictness’ (Koerber 2023, 2024, 2025). Ideally, a species can only be considered as proven for a given area if at least one specimen, demonstrably collected within the limits of that area, has been deposited in a suitable scientific collection, and if this fact has been made available knowledge in a publication. As for any scientific data reliability, reproducibility, and verifiability are clue conditions for the correct composition of a faunal list for a defined area.

The respective most current lists, here the ones of Mabragaña and Cousseau (2021) for Argentina and Nion, Ríos and Meneses (2016) for Uruguay, need to be updated not only in cases of new generic combinations, synonymizations or revalidations from synonymy, but also for additions or reductions.

Herein four species of Liparidae are added to Argentina’s list of marine fishes and the list for Uruguay is reduced by five taxa. While the first are easy deals based on the required voucher specimens (including two holotypes), for the Uruguayan reductions the most probable explanations that led to the unjustified inclusions are provided. By no means this action irrevocably defines that the respective species are not distributed in Uruguayan waters, but rather that by our actual knowledge from literature the current *status quo* does not justify their inclusion. Suitable future findings may certainly ‘reactivate’ any of these species for the Uruguayan list of marine fishes.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AR, Argentina (ISO 3166) | BR, Brazil (ISO 3166) | EEZ, Exclusive Economic Zone | INIDEP, Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Pesquero, Mar del Plata | ISH, Institut für Seefischerei, Hamburg (collection at ZMH since 1993) | USNM, United States National Museum (aka Smithsonian), Washington D.C. | UY, Uruguay (ISO 3166) | ZMH, originally ‘Zoologisches Museum Hamburg’, now ‘Museum der Natur, Hamburg’.

Overlooked records for EEZ-AR

Careproctus maculosus Stein, 2006 (figs. 1,2)

holotype from EEZ-AR: USNM 384325

Careproctus minimus Andriashev & Stein, 1998 (figs. 3,4)

non-type specimen from EEZ-AR: USNM 384326

Careproctus stigmatogenus Stein, 2006 (figs. 5,6)

holotype from EEZ-AR: USNM 384324

In his work on rare snailfishes collected during the 2004 'Icefish' expedition, Stein (2006) stated on three species of *Careproctus* obtained simultaneously from a single haul conducted at the southern edge of the Burdwood Bank: 54°45.6'S 59°18.3'W, depth 297-273 m, research vessel *Palmer*, station 5, 21.May.2004, EEZ-AR.

This position is located 33 nm 134°SE from the central point of the marine protected area Namuncurá. From these specimens Stein not only described two new species, *C. maculosus* and *C. stigmatogenus*, but also reported on a specimen of *C. minimus*, probably not being aware that thereby he provided the first record for this species from Argentina.



Fig. 1. *Careproctus maculosus* Stein, 2006. Holotype USNM 384325.

Fig. 1. *Careproctus maculosus* Stein, 2006. Holotipo USNM 384325.

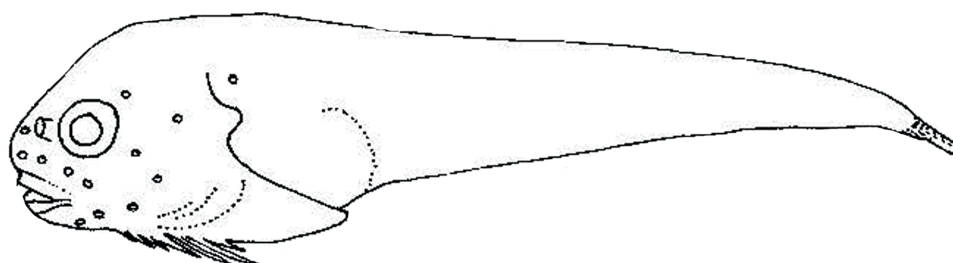


Fig. 2. *Careproctus maculosus* Stein, 2006. Drawing of holotype USNM 384325 from Stein (2006).

Fig. 2. *Careproctus maculosus* Stein, 2006. Dibujo del holotipo USNM 384325, tomado de Stein (2006).



Fig. 3. *Careproctus minimus* Andriashev & Stein, 1998. Specimen USNM 384326.

Fig. 3. *Careproctus minimus* Andriashev & Stein, 1998. Espécimen USNM 384326.

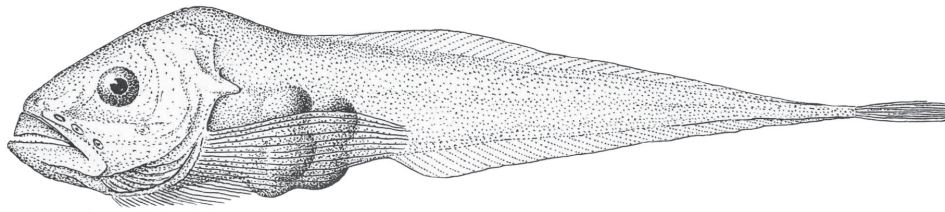


Fig. 4. *Careproctus minimus* Andriashev & Stein, 1998. Drawing of holotype from Andriashev and Stein (1998).

Fig. 4. *Careproctus minimus* Andriashev & Stein, 1998. Dibujo del holotipo, tomado de Andriashev y Stein (1998).



Fig. 5. *Careproctus stigmatogenus* Stein, 2006. Holotype USNM 384324.

Fig. 5. *Careproctus stigmatogenus* Stein, 2006. Holotipo USNM 384324.

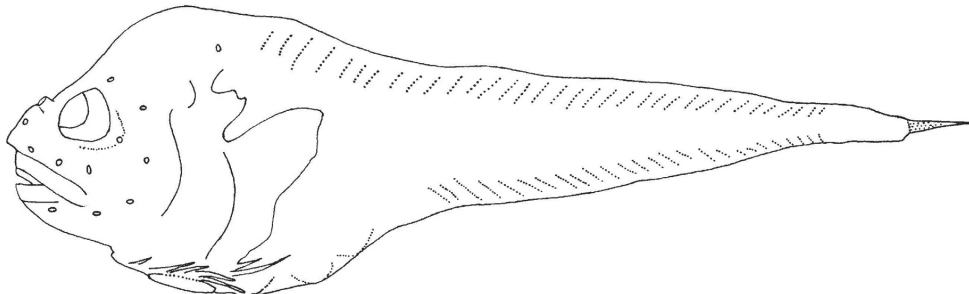


Fig. 6. *Careproctus stigmatogenus* Stein, 2006. Drawing of holotype USNM 384324 from Stein (2006).

Fig. 6. *Careproctus stigmatogenus* Stein, 2006. Dibujo del holotipo USNM 384324, tomado de Stein (2006).



Fig. 7. *Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986. Specimen ZMH 123599 (ex ISH 141-1971).

Fig. 7. *Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986. Specimen ZMH 123599 (ex ISH 141-1971).



Fig. 8. *Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986. Specimen ZMH 123598 (ex ISH 299-1978).

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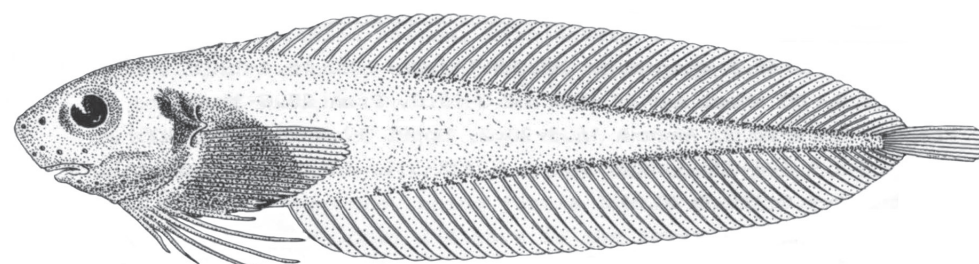


Fig. 9. *Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986. Drawing of holotype from Andriashev (1986).

Fig. 9. *Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986. Dibujo de holotipo de Andriashev (1986).

***Paraliparis hubbsi* Andriashev, 1986 (figs. 7-9)**

non-type specimen from EEZ-AR: ZMH 123599 (1), ex ISH 141-1971,
Walther Herwig station 339/71, 25.Feb.1971

Stehmann and Schulze (1996) were the first to mention this species for Argentina, indicating for the capture Walther Herwig station 693/78 (fig. 10), 40°23.9'S 56°07.2'W, 1040-940 m, 26.Jun.1978, yet without informing about the referred to specimen. This specimen is still available at ZMH 123598 (ex ISH 299-1978, fig. 8). Subsequently *P. hubbsi* has been mentioned for Argentina without further details by Andriashev (1998) and Cousseau and Rosso (2019). Only Andriashev (2003) provided a published evidence-based confirmation based on the above mentioned specimen (fig. 7) from Walther Herwig 339/71 (fig. 10).

Negative records for EEZ-UY

Facciolella oxyrhynchus (Bellotti, 1883)

Anguilliformes: Congroidei: Nettastomatidae

listings for Uruguay: Nion et al. (2002, 2016)

In their binational book on the marine fishes of Argentina and Uruguay, regarding *F. physonema*, a junior synonym of *F. oxyrhynchus*, Menni, Ringuelet and Arámburu (1984) made reference to Menezes and Benvegnú (1976) stating that the therein mentioned locality at 34°27'S 51°50'W would be in Uruguayan waters. The Brazilian authors reported this species from station 1883 of the research vessel *Besnard* at 34°27'S 51°50'W, a position nested in the EEZ-BR (fig. 10). Thus, Menni et al.'s statement regarding this position to be located in Uruguay was erroneous and most probably the source for the unjustified inclusion of this species in the lists of Uruguayan marine fishes.

Saurenhelys cancrivora Peters, 1864

Anguilliformes: Congroidei: Nettastomatidae

listings for Uruguay: Nion et al. (2002, 2016)

Same circumstances, authors, and locality as for *Facciolella oxyrhynchus*.

Gnathophis mystax (Delaroche, 1809)

Anguilliformes: Congroidei: Congridae: Congrinae

listings for Uruguay: Nion et al. (2002, 2016), Cousseau, Denegri and Figueroa (2010)

Same circumstances, authors, and locality as for *Facciolella oxyrhynchus*, only here yet adding *Besnard* stations 569, 1648, and 1740 (fig. 10).

Bathypterois longipes Günther, 1878

Aulopiformes: Ipnopidae

listings for Uruguay: Briggs (1958), Nion et al. (2002, 2016)

Günther described this species from *Challenger* station 325 at 36°44'S 46°16'W, a position more than 190 nm beyond the EEZ-UY's outer limit. Referring to Günther's type locality Menezes, Buckup, Figueiredo and Moura (2003) commented it to be found "ao largo do Uruguai". This statement has probably been the source for the unjustified inclusion of this species in the lists of Uruguayan marine fishes.

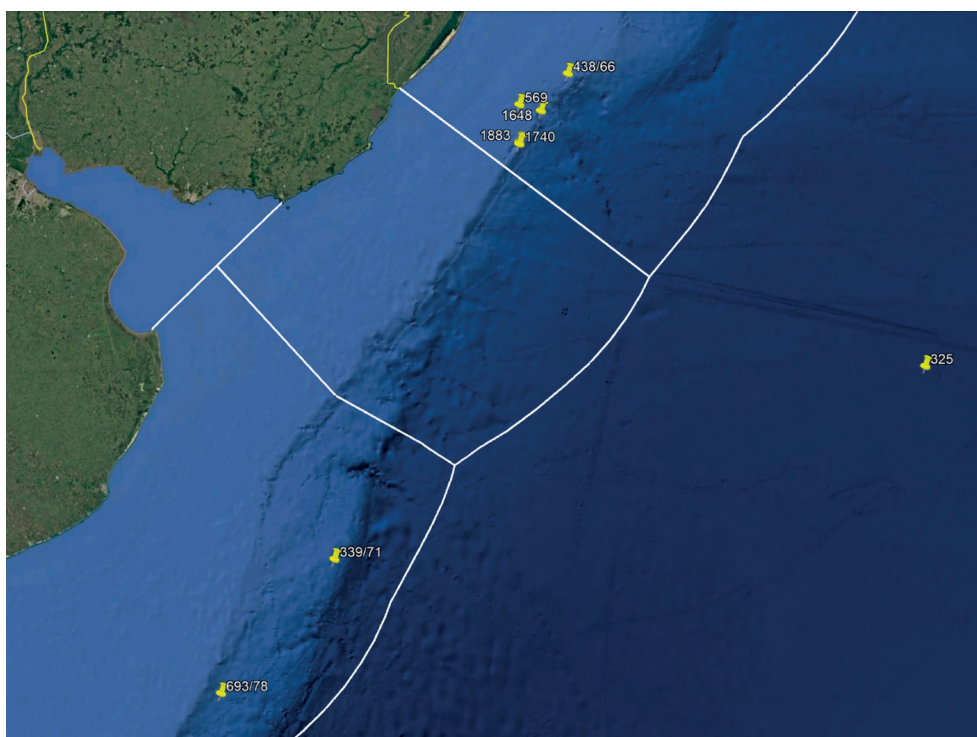


Fig. 10. Satellite image generated from GoogleEarth showing the localities of collections mentioned in the text (except for the three species of *Careproctus* from far further South): Besnard (569, 1648, 1740, 1883), Challenger (325), and Walther Herwig (438/66, 339/71, 693/78).

Fig. 10. Imagen satelital generada a partir de Google Earth que muestra las localidades de recolección mencionadas en el texto (a excepción de las tres especies de *Careproctus* provenientes de latitudes mucho más meridionales): Besnard (569, 1648, 1740, 1883), Challenger (325) y Walther Herwig (438/66, 339/71, 693/78).

***Monomitopus americanus* (Nielsen, 1971)**

Ophidiiformes: Ophidiidae: Neobythitinae

listings for Uruguay: Nion et al. (2002, 2016), Menezes et al. (2003)

In the description of *Selachophidium americanum* as a new species Nielsen (1971) provided details for five collection lots obtained at four stations of the German research vessel *Walther Herwig*. About the distribution of the species he explained that “all specimens were caught on the continental slope off Uruguay and southern Brazil”. Actually, even the most southern of the mentioned positions, *Walther Herwig* 438/66, despite of being somehow East of Uruguay, is in fact located within the EEZ-BR. Nielsen’s comment was most probably the source for the unjustified inclusion of this species in the lists of Uruguayan marine fishes.

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