

## NOTA

OCCURRENCE OF A COUPLE OF *Callorhynchus callorynchus* (LINNAEUS 1758) OFF SOUTHERN BRAZIL

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper the occurrence of two specimens of the elephant fish, *Callorhynchus callorynchus* is recorded. Despite being common off Uruguay and Argentina, the species is occasionally caught in South Brazil. As a consequence, information on the populations of this species is not available.

**Key words:** Chondrichthyes, Holocephalli, fishes, bottom trawl fisheries

## RESUMEN

**Ocurrencia de una pareja de *Callorhynchus callorynchus* (Linnaeus 1758) en aguas del sur del Brasil.** En este artículo se registra la ocurrencia de dos especímenes del pez Gallo, *Callorhynchus callorynchus*. Pese a ser común aguas frente a Uruguay y Argentina, la especie no es comúnmente capturada en el sur del Brasil. Como consecuencia, no se dispone de información sobre las poblaciones de esta especie.

**Palabras clave:** Condricios, holocéfalos, peces, pesca de arrastre de fondo

The Order Chimaeriformes comprises six extant genera with 49 species (Weigmann, 2016). Systematically, this group is composed of three families. The Family Callorhynchidae includes the chimaeras with snout elongate, flexible, hoe-shaped process (Nelson, 2016). The four living species of genus *Callorhynchus* are restricted to temperate waters of the Southern Hemisphere (Didier, 2004). The species is common in Uruguayan and Argentinean waters (Figueiredo, 1977; Di Giacomo & Perier, 1991; Chierichetti, 2017). Off Brazil, elephant fishes are recorded occasionally. They have been reported for the litoral of São Paulo state, around the island of São Sebastião (23° 45' 36" S; 45° 24' 35" W). The elephant fish, *Callorhynchus callorynchus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is occasionally caught in small-scale fisheries off Santa Catarina State in Brazil (Mazzoleni & Schwingel, 1999). The aim of

this work is to record the occurrence of two specimens of *C. callorynchus* off South Brazil. The specimens were obtained from a commercial fishing trip along the coast of Rio Grande do Sul (South of Brazil), carried out from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The fishing area was located between latitudes 34° 28'S and 31° 29'S at depths between 15 and 142 m. The precise depth of the fishing haul with occurrence of the chimaeras was not reported by the skipper. Taxonomic identification of the individuals was performed according to Figueiredo (1977). The specimens were taken to the laboratory (Laboratório de Morfologia II, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, FURG), for fixation and analysis. From each specimen, total length (TL, cm), total weight (TW, g), sex, total clasper length (CL, cm) measured from cloacal to extreme distal aspect of the same and the total length of the dorsal spine (DSL, cm) were recorded. To assess the maturity stage, the clasper calcification degree (male) and the aspect of the ovaries and oviductal gland in the female were observed. The uteri were also examined.

Based on the observation of the secondary sexual characters, one of the specimens was identified as male while the other was female (Fig. 1 A y B). Both of them were adult. Uteri were empty. The male had a TL of 70.0 cm; the CL was 9.0 cm, the DSL was 11.8 cm and the TW was 1317.5 g. The female was 65.0 cm TL, and 1420.5 g TW. The female DSL could not be registered because the spine was incomplete. The first specimen reported from Brazilian waters was captured in 1928 at Praia Grande, in the vicinities of the city of Santos, Sao Paulo State (Miranda Ribeiro, 1928). Records of *C. callorynchus* in Brazilian waters have been based on single specimens, suggesting that it may be solitary or occur in small schools (Moreira *et al.*, 1993; Di Dario, 2011). Although this record represents an important antecedent for the study of the biology and ecology of this family, it is not possible to conclude anything about the population of this family off south of Brazil. One major question is whether or not elephant fishes occurring off south Brazil are the same large population with those of Uruguay and Argentina (where it is common).



Fig 1. The two specimens of *Callorhynchus callorynchus* captured off South Brazil in 2011; female (A) and male (B). Black bar represents 10 cm.

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