

NOTA:

**DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON SOME MARINE FISHES
COLLECTED ON SOUTHERN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO**

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RESUMEN

Notas sobre la distribución de algunas especies de peces marinos de Baja California, México. Se presenta el registro de ampliación de ámbito geográfico de cuatro especies de peces marinos del Pacífico oriental tropical mexicano: *Anisotremus interruptus*; *Gymnura crebripunctata*; *Narcine entemedor* y *Sphoeroides lispus*.

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Pacífico oriental. Peces marinos.*

The four fishes listed in this note, whose appearance on the coast of southern Baja California represent geographic range extensions, also establish definite zoogeographical boundaries. Recently, the geographical distribution of the some marine fishes in the tropical eastern Pacific is apparently not well known or in some places has not been thoroughly investigated (Allen and Robertson, 1994). Therefore, present information is intended as a contribution to its understanding, keeping records up to date and shedding light on fish distribution, which is essential to sustain taxonomic studies, establish the significance of climatic changes and facilitate biogeographic analyses. All of the specimens reported here have been collected by personnel of the ichthyological collection of Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas (CICIMAR-IPN) at La Paz, Baja California Sur, México. The accounts are presented in alphabetical order by family and the nomenclature follows Nelson (1994) and Allen and Robertson (1994). Length is given in millimeters of standard length (SL), total length (TL) or width of disc (WD), depending on body form. Limits and names of zoogeographic regions and provinces are based on Briggs (1974). All fish are deposited in the ichthyological collection at CICIMAR-IPN (CICIMAR-CI series).

Anisotremus interruptus (Gill, 1862). (Haemulidae). A single burrito (231 SL) was taken in Puerto Viejo, Baja California (Scammon Lagoon complex: 28°02'04"N and 114°07'W) on September 6, 1994. The specimen was caught with a speargun at 3 meters depth. The previous and well documented northern limit of its range was Bahía Magdalena, Baja California, México

(24°45'N) and throughout the Golfo de California to Perú, including Galápagos Islands (Allen and Robertson, 1994; McKay and Schneider, 1995). The capture constitutes a northward extension of the range by more than 400 km, provides an exact geographic locality for a verified specimen (CICIMAR-CI 4126) and represents a new zoogeographical region and province for the species: California and San Diegan, respectively.

Gymnura crebripunctata Peters, 1869. (Gymnuridae). On October 1, 1995, a single butterfly ray was caught in Ensenada de La Paz, Baja California Sur (24°08'N and 110°21'W) in 1.2 meters of water using a beach seine. McEachran (1995) cited the northern limit of *G. crebripunctata* as a mainland locality near Mazatlán, Sinaloa, México, and extended its new range to Panamá (Mexican and Panamian provinces). However, the exact distribution range for this species is uncertain, as well as without verified records of its occurrence within this range (J. D. McEachran, pers. comm. 1997). The collected specimen was a male (433 WD and 293 TL), and its occurrence seems noteworthy because this species is not very common. In fact, it is the first record on the western Golfo de California (Cortez province). The capture represents a northward extension of the previously known range by about 400 km, establishing an exact geographic locality for a verified specimen (CICIMAR-CI 4527).

Narcine entemedor Jordan and Starks, 1895. (Narcinidae). The lesser electric ray was previously known only from south-central Baja California to Panamá. Fitch (1952) records the northernmost range in San Juanico Bay, Baja California (26°N). During a collecting trip on July 21, 1994 to Scammon Lagoon complex in Baja California (28°N), we captured a specimen of *N. entemedor* (793 TL) in a four-inch mesh gill net at 8 km NW Las Aguilas (27°46'17"N and 114°11'17"W). The gill net had been set overnight, in 6 meters of water. The capture of this species extends the known range northward over 300 km into the San Diegan province (CICIMAR-CI 4354).

Sphoeroides lispus Walker, 1996. (Tetraodontidae). Between July, 1994, and January, 1995, one hundred thirty-six smooth puffers were caught in Scammon and Guerrero Negro Lagoons (27°39'N to 28°03'N). These fish were captured by beach seine, speargun and cast net, and ranged in size from 12 to 352 mm TL. *Sphoeroides lispus* was recently described in Walker and Bussing (1996), and, according to them, the geographical range of the smooth puffer goes from Bahía Magdalena to Golfo de California. Our specimens extend the previously known northern range of *S. lispus* by more than 400 km (CICIMAR-CI 4296, 4297, 4301, 4303 and others). In addition our record represent a new zoogeographical distribution for the smooth puffer similar to that of *A. interruptus*.

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