

***Sparisoma tuiupiranga*, a new species of parrotfish (Perciformes: Labroidae: Scaridae) from Brazil, with comments on the evolution of the genus**

JOÃO LUIZ GASPARINI¹, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE JOYEUX¹ & SERGIO R. FLOETER²

¹ Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo, Departamento de Ecologia e Recursos Naturais, Avenida Fernando Ferrari S/N, Goiabeiras, Vitória, ES, 29060-900, Brazil. E-mail: gaspa.vix@terra.com.br, joyeux@npd.ufes.br

² Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense, Avenida Alberto Lamego 2000, Campos dos Goytacazes, RJ, 28013-600, Brazil. Present address: National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, University of California, Santa Barbara, 735 State Street, Suite 300, Santa Barbara, CA 931015504, USA. E-mail: floeter@nceas.ucsb.edu.

Abstract

Sparisoma tuiupiranga sp. n. is described from the holotype and six paratypes obtained from two coastal islands of southeastern Brazil (20° S). The species shares with *S. atomarium* (Poey) a number of characteristics, including the single mid-ventral scale posterior to the insertion of the pelvic fins. It differs in respect to numerous other characters, among them heavier body proportions (body depth 42.5–47.0 %SL vs. 33.2–36.5 in *S. atomarium*), longer snout (13.1–14.6 %SL vs. 9.4–10.6), smaller orbit diameter (6.0–7.9 %SL vs. 8.0–10.2), higher gill raker number (17–18 vs. 12–16), darker terminal phase color (both in life and alcohol-preserved), and larger size (to 154.4mm SL vs. about 81). The known distribution extends from about 18° S to 27° S in the western Atlantic. This predominantly scraping species inhabits rocky reefs and associated macroalgae beds. The clade *S. atomarium*–*S. tuiupiranga* appears to be basal in the phylogeny of *Sparisoma*. The idea that one can partition scarinines and sparisomatines by historical association with different habitats (coral reefs vs. seagrass) seems too simplistic.

Key words: *Sparisoma tuiupiranga*, Scaridae, reef fish, Brazil, endemism

Introduction

Randall (1965) based his redescription of *Sparisoma atomarium* (Poey, 1861) on 68 individuals from the greater Caribbean Province (Bermuda, Florida Keys, Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Martinique, and off eastern Honduras). All individuals were