



First report of rare pomfrets (Teleostei: Bramidae) from Brazilian waters, with a key to Western Atlantic species

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Abstract

This is the first in a series of reports describing new records caught with circle hooks, a method only now being employed in exploratory fishing in Brazilian deep waters. Several new records of deep-water fishes were obtained with this equipment. In this paper we record for the first time the occurrence of two genera and species of Bramidae in Brazilian waters: the tropical pomfret *Eumegistus brevorti* and the keeltail pomfret *Taractes rubescens*. We also report on previously unnoticed collection records from preserved specimens of *Pterycombus brama* in museum collections, and the first capture of an adult bigscale pomfret *Taractichthys longipinnis* in Brazil. These new records increase the number of bramid species known from Brazilian waters to ten. The addition of *P. brama* to the Brazilian Bramidae makes the Southwestern Atlantic the only known area of the world where two species of *Pterycombus* are found together. Meristic, biometric, and new biological data are presented for *Eumegistus brevorti*. Some species of bramids are rather rare and even if well described in the literature there are morphological characters and behavioral aspects yet to be added. Herein we present detailed descriptions of some bramid species to add to their published descriptions. A key to the Western Atlantic Bramidae is provided.

Key words: Pomfrets, *Eumegistus*, *Taractes*, *Taractichthys*, *Pterycombus*, deep-sea fishes, fisheries.

Introduction

The worldwide marine and usually oceanic Bramidae contains 20 species in seven genera (Mead, 1972; Mundy, 2005; Thompson, 2008). Seven species of Bramidae are reported to date from Brazilian waters: *Brama brama* (Bonaterre, 1788), *B. caribbea* Mead, 1972, *B. dussumieri* Cuvier, 1831, *Pteraclis aesticola* (Jordan & Snyder, 1901), *Pteraclis carolinus* Valenciennes, 1833, *Pterycombus petersii* (Hilgendorf, 1878), and *Taractichthys longipinnis* (Lowe, 1843) (Figueiredo *et al.*, 2002; Menezes & Figueiredo, 2003). In Atlantic waters two other genera and four additional species are known, *Eumegistus brevorti* (Poey, 1861), *Pterycombus brama* Fries, 1837, *Taractes asper* Lowe, 1843, and *T. rubescens* (Jordan & Evermann, 1887) (Mead, 1972; Mundy, 2005; Thompson, 2008). Considering the tropical, oceanic, pelagic and wide ranging habits of most of the Atlantic Bramidae, it would not come as a surprise if additional species were recorded along the Brazilian coast.

The TAMAR (Tartarugas Marinhas, marine turtles in Portuguese) Project is designed to protect sea turtle populations in Brazil, and its work has been internationally recognized as a model for conservation programs. A research program has been carried out by the TAMAR, aiming to evaluate this circle hook's efficiency in pelagic longline fisheries. Since circle hooks reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles (Piovano, 2009) the