

A new species of chimaeroid, *Hydrolagus alphus* sp. nov. (Chimaeriformes: Chimaeridae) from the Galapagos Islands

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Abstract

A new species of chimaerid belonging to the genus *Hydrolagus* Gill, 1862 is described from two specimens collected from the Galapagos Islands. This species was taken from depths ranging from 600 – 900 m. *Hydrolagus alphus* sp. nov. is distinguished from other members of the genus by having proportionately large eyes, dark brown coloration with a noticeable white spot on lateral side, paired fins with a bluish hue and white distal margins, and second dorsal fin with dark anterior and posterior sections separated by a middle portion indented and completely white. This new species is compared to *Hydrolagus macrophthalmus*, the most similar congener and *Hydrolagus mccoskerii* the only other known species within this genus to occur in the eastern South Pacific.

Key words: *Hydrolagus*, Chimaeriformes, Chimaeridae, Galapagos Islands, new species

Introduction

In recent years, increased deep water surveys have led to the discovery of several new species within the family Chimaeridae, particularly within the genus *Hydrolagus* (Didier, 2002; Didier and Seret, 2002; Soto and Vooren, 2004; Barnett et al., 2006). Recently, deep water exploration around the Galapagos Islands was undertaken using a manned submersible. This particular collecting method enabled researchers to explore rocky and volcanic terrain not accessible to conventional trawling methods (McCosker, 1997;