



Four new species of *Sabatieria* Rouville, 1903 (Nematoda, Comesomatidae) from the Continental Slope of Atlantic Southeast

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Abstract

Sabatieria is the most abundant genus along the Campos Basin, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Four new species of *Sabatieria* (Nematoda-Comesomatidae) from the Continental Slope of Atlantic Southeast are described. *Sabatieria spiculata* sp.nov. is characterized by the size of spicule and the presence of dorsal tooth; *S. paraspiculata* sp. nov. by tail shape and the maximum diameter; *S. bitumen* sp. nov. by spicule shape with an arrow-like distal part and the *S. subrotundicauda* sp.nov. by a round tail and reflected ovary.

Key words: Free-living marine nematodes, *Sabatieria*, Comesomatidae, deep-sea, silty sediments

Introduction

The nematode community structure in Campos Basin did not differ significantly from other deep-sea data worldwide, showing low densities, low dominance and very high richness. Netto *et al.* (2005) studying the same area found similar community structure, with a strong bathymetrical boundary between continental slope and deep sea stations. The number of genera (193) and families (44) are the highest recorded in deep-sea (Fonsêca-Genevois *et al.* 2005). Most of the genera (42%) were present from 500 m to 1950 m depth, but considering species distribution among the genera, diversity not only increases with depth but also spatial heterogeneity may become extremely more evident (Lira 2005).

Sabatieria is the most abundant genus along the Campos Basin accounting to 50% of the total nematofauna (Fonsêca-Genevois *et al.* 2005). *Sabatieria spiculata* sp. nov., *S. paraspiculata* sp. nov. and *S. bitumen* sp.nov. presented a continuous spatial distribution, whereas the *S. subrotundicauda* sp. nov. was only found at the upper slope.

Study area

The continental slope of Campos Basin has a width varying from 120 km to 150 km, with the lowest limits between 2.400 m and 3.000 m depth. It is covered by fine continental sediment and a sandy fraction which is composed mainly of Foraminifera (Soares-Gomes *et al.* 1999). This Basin is located on the continental shelf and slope of Rio de Janeiro State, between 21° 30' and 23° 30' S (Figure 1).