



***Sparisoma rocha*, a new species of parrotfish (Actinopterygii: Labridae) from Trindade Island, South-western Atlantic**

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Abstract

A new species of parrotfish, *Sparisoma rocha* **sp. n.**, is described from Trindade Island off South-eastern Brazil. It differs from its Western Atlantic congeners by the unique colour pattern of live and freshly preserved individuals: initial phase red overall with a brownish shade from lower jaw to over the abdominal cavity, sparse orange blotches on head, and pale circumpeduncular band; terminal phase reddish brown with orange stripe from jaw angle to end of preopercle, sparse orange blotches on head, three pinkish to reddish stripes from about midline to dorsum, from midline to belly pale greyish green to whitish with suffusion of pale reddish brown, a black spot on base of pectoral fins and a bright-yellow blotch below this spot. Additionally, mitochondrial 12S and 16S rRNA loci sequences do not match any known *Sparisoma* species. The new parrotfish increases to six the species of the genus *Sparisoma* recorded from South-western Atlantic.

Key words: *Sparisoma*, new species, Labridae, reef fish, oceanic islands, Western Atlantic

Introduction

The South-western Atlantic parrotfishes of the genus *Sparisoma* Swainson were recently reviewed by Moura *et al.* (2001) who recognised five species. Since then one additional species was described from the South-western Atlantic (Gasparini *et al.* 2003), which replaced *Sparisoma atomarium* (Poey) from the list presented by Moura *et al.* (2001), and is already treated as such in Robertson *et al.* (2006). Herein we describe a new species of *Sparisoma* from Trindade Island, off South-eastern Brazil, raising to six the number of species within this labrid genus (*sensu* Westneat & Alfaro 2005) recognised for South-western Atlantic.

Material and methods

Counts and measurements follow Moura *et al.* (2001) and Gasparini *et al.* (2003). Specimen lengths are given as mm standard length (SL). Abbreviations IP and TP refer to initial and terminal colour phases (see Warner & Robertson 1978). Colour characterisation is based on type specimens shortly after death and those recorded alive in nature, as well as after preserved in ethanol. Mention to colours of other *Sparisoma* species is based on Moura *et al.* (2001), and personal observations. Institutional abbreviations follow Leviton *et al.* (1985), except CIUFES (Coleção Ictiológica, Departamento de Oceanografia e Ecologia, Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo). The new species had its mitochondrial 12S and 16S rRNAs analysed by G. Bernardi (*in litt.*). DNA was extracted from one sample and PCR amplified for the mitochondrial 12S and 16S rRNAs genes using universal primers (Robertson *et al.* 2006). Sequences were then compared with all known *Sparisoma*