



Records of regalecid fishes in Argentine waters

ANA E. RUIZ¹ & ATILA E. GOSZTONYI²

¹Facultad de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco, Julio A. Roca 115, U9100AQC Trelew, Chubut, Argentina. E-mail: anaruiztw@yahoo.com.ar

²Centro Nacional Patagónico – CONICET, Bvrd. Almirante Brown 2825, 9120 Puerto Madryn, Chubut, Argentina. E-mail: goszto@gmail.com

Abstract

The first two specimens of *Regalecus glesne* Ascanius, 1788, collected in the Argentine Sea, at Playa Unión beach, 43° 18' S, 65° 02' W are reported. Body measurements, meristic characters and morphological data are given. The most important differences with two other regalecid species, *R. russelii* Cuvier and *R. kinoi* Castro-Aguirre *et al.* 1991, from the Pacific coasts of Mexico, are considered. Also, a specimen caught at 43° 03' S, 59° 14' W, at 993 m depth, previously identified as *Agrostichthys* sp. is rediagnosed as *Agrostichthys parkeri* Benham, 1904. The distribution of *R. glesne* is extended to the Argentine Sea, adding a regalecid species to its fish fauna.

Key words: *Regalecus glesne*, *Agrostichthys parkeri*, Argentine Sea, report

Introduction

The regalecid fishes, grouped in two genera and four nominal species, are distributed worldwide in the seas except in the Polar Regions. In the south western Atlantic *Agrostichthys* sp. and *Agrostichthys parkeri* were reported by Gosztonyi (1981) and Figueroa & Astarloa (1996) respectively, and more recently, *Regalecus glesne* and *A. parkeri* were found far beyond the Argentine Sea's eastern limits by Trunov & Kukuev (2005). The descriptions of two specimens of *R. glesne* from Patagonian coastal waters, found stranded on Playa Unión beach at low tide by sport fishermen, during an eleven year span are presented. Also, the reexamination of another regalecid previously reported in the general area is included in order to formally add it to the Argentine fish fauna.

Material examined

Regalecus glesne Ascanius, 1788. Collected at Playa Unión beach, Chubut, Argentine Patagonia, 43° 18' S; 65° 02' W. Specimen 1: female, 3805 mm total length, collected July 14, 1993 by Mr. Luis Ángel D'Antone; specimen 2: female, 4570 mm total length, collected at the same locality, June 15, 2004 by Mr. Julio Castillo. The latter specimen was preserved and catalogued at the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CONICET) Ichthyology Collection under accession number CNPICT 2004/40. Presently it is displayed for public exhibition at the Centro de Interpretación de la Biodiversidad Regional-AQUAVIDA in Playa Unión, Chubut, Argentina.

Agrostichthys parkeri Benham, 1904. Total length 2245 mm. Research Vessel “Shinkai Maru” 1978 Expedition to the Argentine Sea, Cruise 1. Collector Atila E. Gosztonyi, April 4, 1978. Position: 43° 03' S; 58° 57' W, depth 993 m. Preserved material: Head and end of tail, at the Centro Nacional Patagónico (CONICET) Ichthyology Collection, under accession number CNPICT 1978/13.