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Three new species of triplefin blennies of the genus *Enneanectes* (Teleostei, Tripterygiidae) from the tropical eastern Pacific with a key to Pacific species of *Enneanectes*

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Abstract

Three new species of the triplefin blenny genus *Enneanectes* found in the Pacific Ocean off southern Mexico are described. Two, *Enneanectes glendae* and *Enneanectes macrops*, are mainland species, while the third, *Enneanectes exsul*, is endemic to the Islas Revillagigedo. A key to the five species of *Enneanectes* known from the tropical eastern Pacific is provided.

Key words: Blennioidei, southern Mexico, Islas Revillagigedo

Introduction

The triplefin blenny genus *Enneanectes* Jordan & Evermann, 1896 currently includes two described species from the eastern Pacific and six from the western Atlantic (Rosenblatt 1960; Lubbock & Edwards 1981; Williams 2003). The genus is characterized by an interrupted lateral line with the anterior portion composed of pored scales originating above the pectoral girdle and the posterior portion, located along the midline, composed of notched scales. Palatine teeth are absent, the pelvic fins are separate, there is a single supraorbital cirrus on each eye, and the top of the head is covered with numerous small, close-set spines. The genus *Enneanectes* has a confused nomenclatural history, most recently discussed by Smith & Williams (2002) who invoked Article 70.3.2 of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) to fix the type species as *Tripterygium carminale* Jordan & Gilbert, 1882 based on the designation of a neotype by Brock (1940). The present study formally describes three long recognized species found in the waters off southern Mexico (Rosenblatt 1959), and provides a key to the five species found in the tropical eastern Pacific. Additional undescribed species reportedly occur in the western Atlantic (Williams 2003).

Material and methods

Methods of counting and measuring generally follow Hubbs & Lagler (1958). The last ray of the dorsal and anal fins, divided at the base in most specimens, was counted as one. Pored and notched lateral line scales are reported separately. Scales in the notched series lacking a distinct notch were included in the count if the scales anterior and posterior to it were notched. “Lateral scale rows” is the number of rows above the pored lateral line, continuing posteriorly to the caudal fin. Scale rows above the lateral line were counted in an oblique row between the pored lateral line and the base of the third spine of the second dorsal fin. Scales below the lateral line were counted in an oblique row between the pored lateral line and the fourth soft ray of the anal fin. Upper or lowermost scales less than half the size of other scales were counted as ½. Measurements were made to the nearest 0.1 mm with dial