

NOTA CIENTIFICA

NEW REPORT FOR THE CUBAN ICHTHYOFAUNA: *Prionotus ophryas* JORDAN AND SWAIN, 1885 (ACTINOPTERYGII: TRIGLIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

A new report for the Cuban ichthyofauna is given in this work: *Prionotus ophryas* Jordan and Swain, 1885. A 16.5 cm female specimen was collected in Flamingo Beach, north of Cayo Coco, Ciego de Ávila, Cuba.

Key words: new records; ichthyofauna; *Prionotus ophryas*; ASW, Cuba.

RESUMEN

Se informa un nuevo registro para la ictiofauna cubana: *Prionotus ophryas* Jordan y Swain, 1885. El ejemplar hembra de 16.5 cm de longitud total fue colectado en Playa Flamenco al norte de Cayo Coco, Ciego de Ávila.

Palabras clave: nuevos registros; ictiofauna; *Prionotus ophryas*; ASW, Cuba.

The fish was captured in Flamingo Beach, northern coast of Cayo Coco, in the Sabana-Camagüey archipelago (22°33'0.55" N and 78°25'27.29" W) on June 12, 2009. It was sighted near the shore, at a depth of 0.15 m and captured with bare hands. Examination was conducted few hours after capture, when it still fresh. The individual was measured and photographed stomach and gonads were removed for examination. The fish was preserved in formyl (10 %) and deposited in the marine collections of the Coastal Ecosystems Research Center (CIEC, acronym in Spanish), from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of the Republic of Cuba. It is recorded with the reference number 12.2.0100. Systematic was defined according to Nelson (2006).

RESULTS

Phylum: Chordata

Subphylum: Vertebrata

Class: Actinopterygii

Order: Scorpaeniformes

Family: Triglidae

Genus: *Prionotus*

Species: *Prionotus ophryas* Jordan and Swain, 1885. Bandtail searobin.

References: Robin *et al.* (1986); Russell *et al.* (1992) and Böhlke and Chaplin (1993).

This is a small size species (200 mm maximum length) that live between 18 to 64 m depth. The species distribution range stretches from South Florida, to the Gulf of Mexico and Venezuela (Robin *et al.*, 1986). The differences of *Prionotus ophryas* with the rest of the genera of the family Triglidae are the two long nasal cirrus at nostril fronts and supraocular cirrus at eyes (Fig. 1) (Russell *et al.*, 1992).



Fig. 1. *Prionotus ophryas* (bandtail searobin), complete specimen *Prionotus ophryas* (gallina cornuda), Photograph by Hector M. Salvat Torres.

The specimen has total a length of 165 mm. The body is overall dark but slightly lighter in the

ventral region, with vertical diffused gray to black strips in the last one-third of the body. Caudal, anal and ventral fins have white bands. Pectoral fins are dark and spotless (Fig. 1). The J-shaped stomach contained 15 juvenile shrimps from the family Penaeidae and a single small unidentified crab. Ovaries are 30 mm long and show little development.

According to Claro *et al.* (2001) and Claro (2007), only three species of Triglidae were reported from Cuban waters: *Bellator egretta* (Goode & Bean, 1896), *Prionotus punctatus* (Bloch, 1793) and *Prionotus rubio* Jordan, 1886. Therefore the present finding of *Prionotus ophryas* constitutes a new addition to the Cuban ichthyofauna.

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