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Short Notes

DEEP-SEA FISHES IN THE STOMACH CONTENTS OF THE BLUNTNOSE SIXGILL SHARK *Hexanchus griseus* (BONNATERRE, 1788)(CHONDRICHTHYES, HEXANCHIDAE), CAUGHT OFF SOUTHERN BRAZILIAN COAST

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The food habits of *Hexanchus griseus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) are poorly documented by specific analysis. Bigelow & Schroeder (1948) cite that its food consists of fishes and crustaceans. They state that "in Spanish waters it feeds largely on hake (*Merluccius*) and an entire *Torpedo* has also been found in one; and off Cuba, dolphins (*Coryphaena*), small marlins (*Makaira*) and small swordfish (*Xiphias*) are reported from stomachs, as well as crabs, shrimps and parts bitten from other sharks that had been hooked". Compagno (1984) cited that the species is a vertical migrant, it may sit on the bottom by day, and rise to the surface at night to feed. This author complements the list of preys including other fishes (chimaeras, herring, grenadiers, cod, ling, flounders, gurnards and anglers), as well as squids, carrion, and even seals. On the Brazilian coast, the species has been reported off the south and northeast regions, between 300 and 800 m depth, and considered relatively rare (Soto, 1999, 2001).

The stomach contents analysis of 2 specimens captured off the State of Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil is presented herein. The specimens were deposited in the Museu Oceanográfico do Vale do Itajaí (Itajaí, Brazil): MOVI 04893, unsexed (only the head was preserved), 220 cm TL, 29º39'56"S, 47º48'42"W, 540 m, 22.iv.1995, trap; and MOVI 08806, juvenile male, 170.5 cm TL, 30º59'37"S, 49º19'08"W, 300 m, 26.viii.1997, bottom longline. The identification and taxonomic list of prey items is in accordance with Melo (1996), for crustaceans, and Figueiredo (1977), Figueiredo & Menezes (1978) and Eschmeyer *et al*. (1998), for fish.

The stomach contents of 2 juveniles, collected off the coast of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil, consisted of at least 5 different prey items, with a predominance of the crab *Leurocyclus tuberculosus* (H. Milne Edwards & Lucas, 1843) (Tab. 1). All the fishes identified were found at the same depths as that of the capture of the sharks.

Table 1. Stomach contents, in number of items, of 2 juveniles of *Hexanchus griseus* collected off Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil.

Prey items	MOVI 04893	MOVI 08806
Crustacea		
Decapoda		
Brachyura		
Majidae		
Leurocyclus tuberculosus		4
Pisces		
Chondrichthyes		
Squaliformes		
Squalus sp.	1	
Osteichthyes		
Gadiformes		
Macrouridae		
Caelorinchus marinii	1	
Phycidae		
Urophycis mystacea		1
Lophiiformes		
Lophiidae		
Lophius gastrophysus	1	

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Centroscymnus cryptacanthus REGAN, 1906 - A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *C. owstonii* GARMAN, 1906 (CHONDRICHTHYES, DALATIIDAE)

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The taxonomic status of *Centroscymnus cryptacanthus* Regan, 1906 and *C. owstonii* Garman, 1906 has been recently discussed by Soto (2001), who recognized these species as synonymous. However, a nomenclatural problem over the valid name was created. The two species were formally described in the same year and Soto (2001) considered *C. cryptacanthus* a senior synonym of *C. owstonii*. However, according to Eschmeyer *et al*. (1998), the dates of publication of the original descriptions indicate the opposite, which in agreement with ICZN (1999), *C. owstonii* (January) begins to prevail over *C. cryptacanthus* (for December).

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FIRST RECORD OF A RABBIT-EARED BARNACLE, *Conchoderma auritum* (LINNAEUS, 1767) (CRUSTACEA, CIRRIPEDIA), ON THE TEETH OF THE LA PLATA DOLPHIN, *Pontoporia blainvillei* (GERVAIS & D'ORBIGNY, 1844) (CETACEA, PLATANISTOIDEA)

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Conchoderma auritum (Linnaeus, 1767) is an epizoic cirriped with circunglobal distribution. On cetaceans, it is mainly found adhering to the teeth or baleens (Clarke, 1966). In Odontocetes, it is found with relative frequency on specimens of the genera *Physeter* and *Mesoplodon*, predominantly on males of *M. bidens*, *M. densirostris*, *M. europaeus*, *M. hectori* and *M. layardii* (Mead, 1989). In dolphins, it has been reported on *Stenella roseiventris* (=*S. longirostris*) (Morris & Mowbray (1966); *S. graffmani* (=*S. attenuata*) (Perrin (1969); *S. frontalis* (Van Bree, 1971); *Globicephala macrorhynchus* (Spivey, 1977); and *Tursiops truncatus* (García-Godós, 1992).

On March 28th, 1992, a male specimen of *Pontoporia blainvillei* (121 cm TL, 21 kg) (Gervais & D'Orbigny, 1844) was incidentally captured by gillnet, 32 km off the coast of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (30º25'S, 50º05'W) and deposited at the Museu Oceanográfico do Vale do Itajaí (MOVI 00947). The analysis indicates a cirriped on the 35th tooth (rostrum-commissure) of the left maxilla. The crustacean was photographed *in loco* (Fig. 1), measured (16 mm TL), and collected (MOVI 01104).

On August 19th, 1992, another specimen of *P. blainvillei*, a female (120.4 cm TL), was found stranded, 8 km north to the North of Praia Nova, Mostardas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (31º06'S, 50º45'W). The specimen was collected (MOVI 01890) and the analyzed, indicating a *C. auritum* adhering to the 21st tooth (rostrum-commissure) of the right maxilla. The crustacean was photographed *in loco* (Fig. 2), measured (21 mm TL), and collected (MOVI 01476). Both specimens were identified as *Conchoderma auritum*, according to Raga

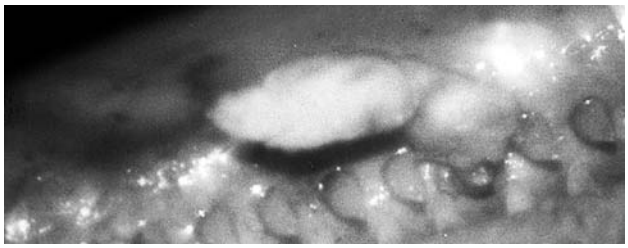

Figure 1. *Conchoderma auritum* (MOVI 01104) on the 35th tooth of a male of *Pontoporia blainvillei* (121 cm TL) incidentally captured by gillnet, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (30º25'S, 50º05'W).

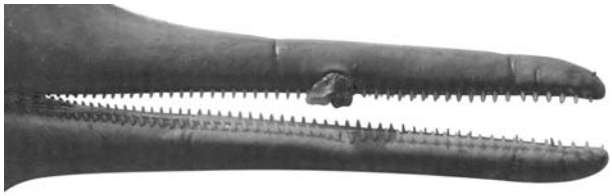

Figure 2. *Conchoderma auritum* (MOVI 01476) on the 21st tooth of a female of *Pontoporia blainvillei* (120.4 cm TL), stranded 8 km north to Praia Nova, Mostardas, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (31º06'S, 50º45'W).

& Sampera (1986).

The association between *C. auritum* and cetaceans has been discussed. Clarke (1966), among others, refers to this relation as ectoparasitism. Mead (1989) and considers it a commensalism. The association observed between the species and *P. blainvillei*, discounts the suggestion of parasitism, as it does not fit entirely with this concept, given that the specimen does not depend entirely on its host. The concept of commensalisms is also not appropriate in this case, as we believe that harm may be caused by a large concentration of these crustaceans, such as the specimen analized by Perrin (1969). Due to these factors, I prefer to consider this relation simply as an epizoic association. The present work reports on the first record of the association between *C. auritum* and *P. blainvillei*.

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FIRST RECORD OF A TURTLE LEECH, *Ozobranchus margoi* (APATHY, 1890) (ANNELIDA, CLITELLATA), ON LA PLATA DOLPHIN, *Pontoporia blainvillei* (GERVAIS & D'ORBIGNY, 1844) (CETACEA, PLATANISTOIDEA)

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Cozobranchus margoi (Apathy, 1890) is an ectoparasite hirudinean with a circunglobal distribution, commonly reported on the sea turtles *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *L. kempi* and *Eretmochelys imbricata* (Sawyer *et al*., 1975; Lauckner, 1984). On cetaceans, it was previously recorded only in *Delphinus longirostris* (=*Delphinus capensis*) (Oka, 1927).

On November 5th, 1995, a female specimen of *Pontoporia blainvillei* (Gervais & D'Orbigny, 1844) (139 cm TL) was found stranded, 82 km north of São José do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (31º43'06"S, 51º27'39"W). The analysis indicates eggs of hirudineans on the dorsal region of the tail. The eggs were photographed *in loco* (Fig. 1), measured (22x15 mm), collected and deposited at the Museu Oceanográfico do Vale do Itajaí (MOVI 05742). The species was identified as *Ozobranchus margoi*, based on the MOVI collection reference.

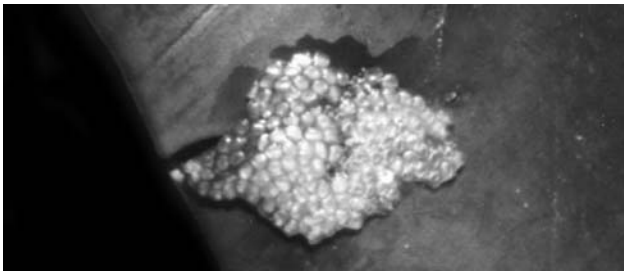

Figure 1. Eggs of *Ozobranchus margoi* (MOVI 05742) on the dorsal region of the caudal peduncle of a *Pontoporia blainvillei* (female, 138.6 cm TL), stranded in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (31º43'06"S, 51º27'39"W).

The association between hirudineans and cetaceans is very rare and reported only in the Pacific Ocean, based on a single record (Oka, 1927). On the coast of southern Brazilian, this leech (specimens and eggs) has been commonly observed on *Caretta caretta*. This research note reports on the first record of the association between *O. margoi* and *P. blainvillei* and the second with hirudineans and cetaceans.

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