

Pisces, Anguilliformes, Moringuidae, *Moringua edwardsi* (Jordan and Bollman, 1889): First record in Atol das Rocas, northeastern Brazil

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ABSTRACT: *Moringua edwardsi* is recorded for the first time at Atol das Rocas, northeastern Brazil. Previous records of the species were located in the western Atlantic Ocean, from Florida to southeastern Brazil, but with many gaps between these regions. A single specimen was collected in Atol das Rocas in July 2007 and it is deposited in the Dias da Rocha Ichthyological Collection. The new record of *M. edwardsi* fills a geographic distribution gap of this species and complements the inventory of fish species inhabiting one of the most unique marine protected areas in the world.

The genus *Moringua* Gray 1831 currently comprises eleven marine species, among which only one is known from the Atlantic Ocean: *Moringua edwardsi* (Jordan and Bollman, 1889) (Eschmeyer and Fricke 2010). It is recorded only in the western coasts, from Florida (USA) to Venezuela (Smith 1989; 2003; Cervigon 1991) and in Brazil: Bahia, northeastern (Almeida 1973) and Trindade Island, off southeastern coast (Gasparini and Floeter 2001).

This paper reports the first record of *M. edwardsi* (Figure 1) in Atol das Rocas, off northeastern Brazil, filling a geographic distribution gap of this species and contributing to a better understanding of the ichthyofauna occurring on that area (Figure 2).

The specimen was collected dead on the beach, preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Dias da Rocha Ichthyological Collection (CIDRO) of the Instituto de

Ciências do Mar, Universidade Federal do Ceará (Fortaleza, Brazil). Morphometric and meristic characters were taken following Böhlke (1989).

Material examined: CIDRO 67 (301.0 mm TL), Brazil, Atol das Rocas, 03°51'30" S 33°49'29" W (Figure 2), July 2007.

Description: Pectoral fin rays 10; lateral-line pores to anus 74; total vertebrae 110; predorsal vertebrae 84; preanal vertebrae 84. Measurements in percent of TL: head length (HL) 7.3, preanal length 68.3, and body depth 1.7. Measurements in percent of HL: eye diameter 4.0, snout length 15.0, upper jaw length 20.9, and pectoral fin length 19.5. Lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw; dorsal fin is inserted behind level of anus; lateral line complete. Mature specimen. Coloration: dark brown on dorsal region and caudal fin, pale white ventrally; dorsal, anal and pectoral fins yellowish (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *Moringua edwardsi* (CIDRO 67, 301.0 mm TL) collected in Atol das Rocas, northeastern Brazil. The entire animal (A) and a close-up of the head (B). Scale: 3.0 mm.

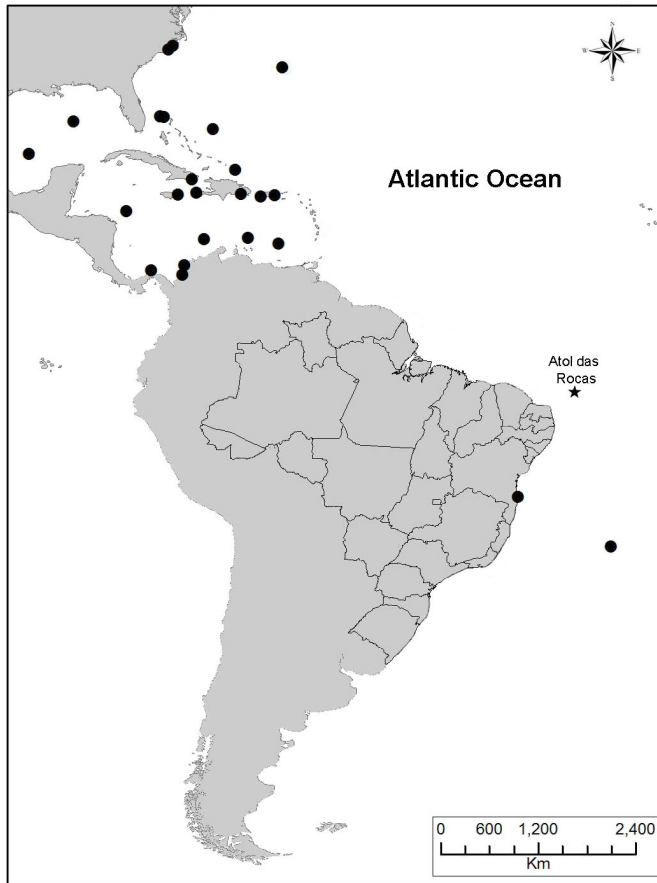


FIGURE 2. Geographical distribution of *Moringua edwardsi* (black circles = previous records; star = new record in Atol das Rocas).

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