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Five new records of coastal fishes from São Tomé Island

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ABSTRACT

We report the presence of five fish species at São Tomé Island, which have not yet been described from there, and clarify the status of two unidentified species in a checklist published previously. Two of these species are amphi-Atlantic and the other five are only known from the coast of West-Africa.

Key words: ichthyofauna, São Tomé and Príncipe, Gulf of Guinea

RESUMEN

Se cita por primera vez la presencia de cinco especies de peces para la isla de São Tomé, al propio tiempo que se resuelve el estatus taxonómico de otras dos no identificadas en catálogos publicados previamente. Dos de ellas tienen una distribución anfiatlántica y las otras cinco sólo se conocen de las costas oesteafricanas.

Palabras clave: ictiofauna, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, Golfo de Guinea

1. INTRODUCTION

WIRTZ *et al.* (2007) summarized the state of knowledge about the coastal fish species of São Tomé and Príncipe. Since then, several new species have been described from there (KOVAČIĆ & SCHLIEWEN 2008, SCHLIEWEN & KOVAČIĆ 2008, ROCHA *et al.* 2012) and additional records have been published (FELIX *et al.* 2016, VASCO-RODRIGUES *et al.* 2016). We here report on five more new records of coastal fishes from São Tomé Island and clarify the status of two unidentified species in the 2007 checklist.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The species reported here were photographed while SCUBA-diving in a depth range of 0-30 m or were collected by netting from the shore.

3. RESULTS

1) *Rhynchobatus lübberti* Ehrenbaum, 1914

The underwater photographer Manuel Silva photographed *Rhynchobatus lübberti* at a dive site called Pedra do Vitorino (figure 1). This photo is the first record of the species for São Tomé Island. *Rhynchobatus lübberti* has previously been recorded from Senegal to Congo (STEHMANN 1990).

2) *Callechelys guineensis* (Osório, 1893)

Figure 5 in WIRTZ et. al (2007) shows an unidentified snake eel. After comparing this photo with a photo of a snake eel from the Caribbean, John McCosker (pers. comm. to PW) wrote about it: “It is (most probably) *Callechelys guineensis*, a transatlantic species. I say most probably because there are other spotted Atlantic *Callechelys*, and without a specimen I can’t be absolutely certain. But that’s most probably what it is.”

Callechelys guineensis is an amphi-atlantic species; in the eastern Atlantic it has already been recorded from Senegal and the Cape Verde Islands and São Tomé Island (WIRTZ et. al 2007).

3) *Gymnammodites capensis* (Barnard, 1927)

WIRTZ et al. (2007, p 16) reported an unidentified sand lace (family Ammodytidae). The pictures were sent to Hitoshi Ida at the School of Fishery Sciences, Kitasato University, Japan, an expert for the family (e.g. IDA et al. 1994), and he wrote (pers. comm. to PW) “Judging from the elongated body and glittering color of the anterior body, fishes of your two photos seem to be *Gymnammodites capensis*.” This species has previously been recorded from Angola to Mozambique (CARNEVALE 2004) but not yet from São Tomé Island.

4) *Liza richardsonii* (Smith, 1846)

Two individuals (32 and 36 cm length) were caught by seine net at Praia de Ana Chaves by the first author. The species has been recorded from Angola to South Africa (TRAPE et al. 2012) but not yet from São Tomé Island.

5) *Chaetodipterus lippei* Steindachner, 1895

Underwater photos by Pedro Vasconcelos (figure 2) und Jean Louis Testori, taken at São Tomé Island, show this species. It has been recorded from Senegal to Angola (DES-OUTTER 1990) but not yet from São Tomé Island.



Figure 1.- *Rhynchobatus lubberti* (Photo: Manuel Silva)



Figure 2.- *Chaetodipterus lippei* (Photo: Pedro Vasconcelos)

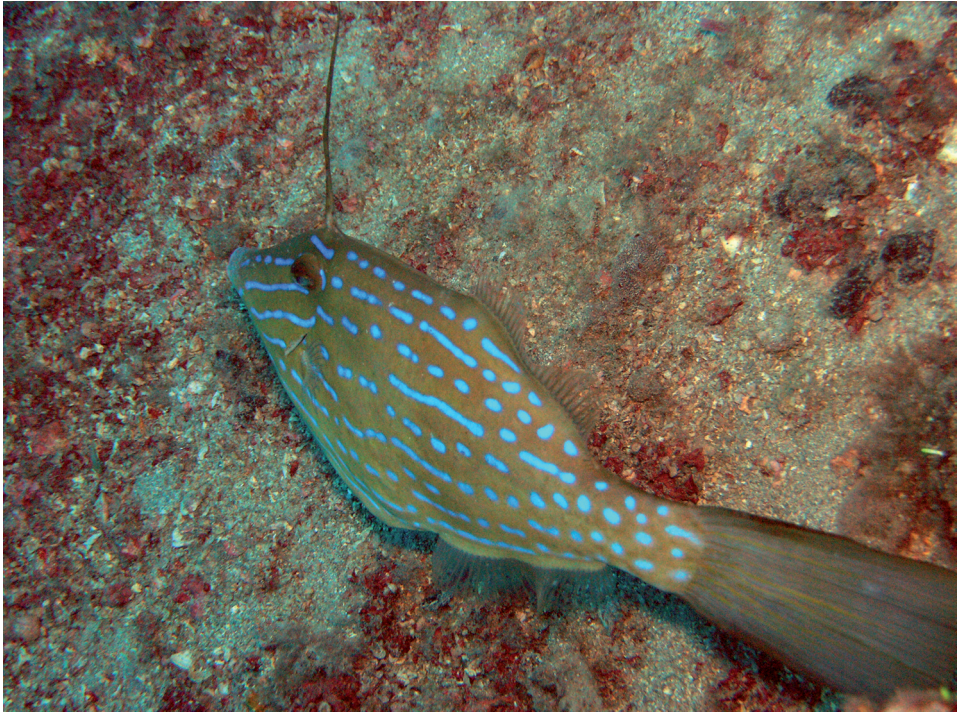


Figure 3.- *Aluterus heudelotii* (Photo: Jean Louis Testori)

6) *Ctenogobius lepturus* (Pfaff, 1933)

Two individuals of this species were obtained by the first author with a small push net in Rosema and Lama Porco beaches. The species has been recorded from Senegal to Congo (SCHLIEWEN 2011) but not yet from São Tomé Island.

7) *Aluterus heudelotii* Hollard, 1855

An underwater photo by Jean Louis Testori (figure 3), taken at São Tomé Island, shows this species. This is an amphi-atlantic species; in the eastern Atlantic it has been recorded from Mauritania to Angola (HARMELIN-VIVIEN & QUÉRO 1990) including the Cape Verde Islands (BRITO *et al.* 1999) but not yet from São Tomé and Príncipe.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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