

NOTES ICHTYOLOGIQUES

NEW RECORD OF *CATAETYX LATICEPS* (BYTHITIDAE) IN NORTHWESTERN ATLANTIC. Rafael BAÑÓN, Asociación Científica de Biología Marina «Augamar», Rucío 69 - 1º G, 36208 Vigo, SPAIN. [rbanon@jazzfree.com].

RÉSUMÉ. Nouveau signalement de *Cataetyx laticeps* (Bythitidae) en Atlantique nord-ouest.

La capture d'un spécimen de *C. laticeps* au large de Terre-Neuve constitue le premier signalement de cette espèce dans l'Atlantique nord-ouest. Connue jusqu'à présent de l'Atlantique est et de la Méditerranée, cette capture étend notablement son aire de distribution vers le nord-ouest.

Key words. Bythitidae - *Cataetyx laticeps* - ANW - Newfoundland - Distribution - New record.

The genus *Cataetyx* Günther, 1887 has a worldwide distribution in tropical and temperate seas at depths ranging from the continental shelf to the abyss (Cohen and Nielsen, 1978) and with ten or more species (Cohen, 1986). This paper reports the presence of *C. laticeps* off Newfoundland, northwestern Atlantic.

Material and methods

The specimen was caught during the exploratory fishery survey "PLATUXA 98" using a bottom trawl, and carried out by the Instituto Español de Oceanografía in May 1998 off Newfoundland, NW Atlantic. The specimen described was preserved on board in formalin. In the laboratory, measurements and meristic characters were recorded according to Stefanescu *et al.* (1990) to the nearest mm. The specimen is stored in the fish collection of the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar de Barcelona (ICICMB).

Cataetyx laticeps Koefoed, 1927

Material examined. IPB 31/2000, 617 mm SL, Newfoundland, 18 May 1998, 42° 54' N-51° 18' W, 1302-1315 m depth.

Diagnosis. D: 102; A: 83; P: 28; V: 1; branchiostegal rays: 9; gillrakers in first arch: 3. Measurements are in millimetres and the percentage respect to standard length are given in brackets: Total length: 678; standard length: 617; head length 162 (26.2); preorbital length: 39 (6.3);

postorbital length: 102 (16.5); horizontal eye diameter: 21 (3.4); vertical eye diameter: 14 (2.3); interorbital length: 26 (4.2); predorsal length: 222 (36.0); dorsal base length: 380 (61.6); preanal length: 330 (53.5); anal base length: 285 (46.2); preventral length: 137 (22.2); prepectoral length: 157 (25.4); pectoral length: 79 (12.8); ventral length: 45 (7.3); maxillary length: 68 (11.0); body depth: 106 (17.2) and body width: 94 (15.2).

Description. Body slender with dorsal and anal fins joined to the caudal fin (Fig. 1); scales present on head and body; snout depressed, broader than long; granular teeth on upper and lower jaw, vomer and palatine; lower jaw ending in a blunt knob; posterior margin of maxilla extending beyond the eye; strong and pointed spine near the upper angle of the opercle; three developed rakers on first arch; ventral fins with one ray in each; colour uniform brown. The specimen here studied corresponds well with the description given by Koefoed (1927).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (Geistdoerfer and Rannou, 1972); eastern Atlantic: Iceland, scattered localities around the British Isles, Azores, France and along the coast of West Africa to the Cape of Good Hope (Hureau and Nielsen, 1981; Saldanha, 1994); western Atlantic: probably in the Gulf of Mexico (Nielsen, 1986), similar-appearing unreported specimens in tropical western Atlantic (Cohen, 1981) and Newfoundland (Fig. 2).

The depth range of this benthic or bathypelagic species is between 500 and 2400 m (Nielsen *et al.*, 1999), but it seems to be more abundant in depths greater than 1000 m. Recent deep-water research and fisheries investigation in the Northeast Atlantic have shown its presence in the Rockall Trough and Porcupine Seabight (Gordon and Duncan, 1985; Merrett *et al.*, 1991; Gordon *et al.*, 1996) and now in the Northwest Atlantic, indicating a wide distribution in the Atlantic Ocean as Cohen (1986) already pointed out.

This new record confirms the presence of *C. laticeps* in the western Atlantic, and extends its distribution northward.

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Fig. 1. *Cataetyx laticeps*, IIPB 31/2000, 678 mm TL, captured in Newfoundland (NW Atlantic).

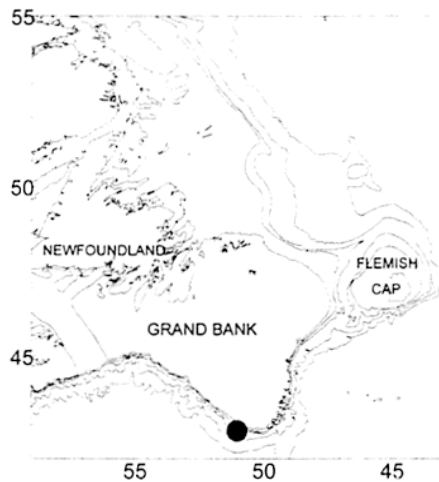


Fig. 2. Map showing the area and station where the specimen of *Cataetyx laticeps* was captured.

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