

New records and range extensions of fishes on the Pacific coast of Mexico.

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During 1994 and 1995, systematic collections of fishes were performed in Ojo de Liebre and Guerrero Negro lagoons, Baja California Sur on the west coast of Mexico (28°06'-27°35'N and 113°50'-114°20'W). This lagoon complex belongs to Mexico's largest protected area: El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve. Some of the fishes collected represent new distributional records, establishing definite geographical localities on the Pacific coast of Mexico. Description of localities, sampling procedures and curation procedures processes are described in De La Cruz-Agüero *et al.* (1996). All specimens caught are deposited in the Ichthyological collection of the Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas (CICIMAR-CI) in La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico.

PARALICHTHYIDAE (Flounders).

Paralichthys aestivalis Gilbert and Scofield, 1898. (Cortez flounder). In November 2, 1994, a Cortez flounder (583 mm SL) was captured in a beach seine at Los Salitrales (27°46'17''N and 114°18'34''W) at a depth of 0.8 m. *P. aestivalis* can be distinguished by the presence of 75-85 dorsal rays and 57-67 anal rays; ctenoid scales on the eyed side at sizes less than 160 mm SL and cycloid scales on specimens larger than 320 mm SL (Hensley 1995). This is the first record documented and verified outside the Gulf of California, extending the known range northward approximately 820 km. (CICIMAR-CI 4384).

RHINOBATIDAE (Guitarfishes)

Rhinobatos leucorhynchus Günther 1866.

(Guitarfish). Several guitarfishes were caught with gill nets. Localities and dates are: El Alambre Island (27°46'17''N and 114°13'34''W) July 30, 1994, two specimens (402 and 463 mm SL) at a depth of 8 m. (CICIMAR-CI 4315).

Other two specimens from the same locality, October 4, 1994 (650 and 652 mm SL) at a depth 4 m. (CICIMAR-CI 4308). One fish (702 mm SL) was captured at Campo No.1 3.5 km SW of Canal de Ballenitas (27°43'10''N and 114°03'45''W), October 4, 1994 at a depth of 5 m. (CICIMAR-CI 4377). *R. leucorhynchus* can be separated from other guitarfishes by its narrow ridges of rostral cartilage, converging at the tip; and body without traces of pale spots on the dorsum. This species was previously recorded from Mazatlán, Mexico to Ecuador (McEachran 1995). Therefore these collections extend the known northern range more than 1000 km.

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