

AMPLIACIONES DE AMBITO

New record of *Panulirus penicillatus* (Olivier 1791) in the Southeastern Gulf of California, Mexico (Crustacea: Palinuridae)

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Panulirus penicillatus (Olivier 1791)

New range: Off Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico. The present record confirms the presence of *P. penicillatus* on the continental margin of Sinaloa.

Former range: Previous records in the eastern Pacific: coast of Sinaloa (Hendrickx 1985); Isabela and Maria Madre Islands, Nayarit; Socorro and Clarion Islands, Colima; Morro Chato (500 m off Ixtapa Beach), Guerrero, Mexico; Cocos Island, Costa Rica and Clipperton Island (Briones and Lozano 1982).

Comments: Four species of lobsters (*Panulirus*) are known from the Pacific coast of Mexico: *P. interruptus* (Randall), *P. penicillatus* (Olivier), *P. inflatus* (Bouvier), and *P. gracilis* Streets (Chapa 1964, Williams 1986). *Panulirus penicillatus* is an insular species with worldwide distribution. It has been reported only twice at non-insular localities along the Mexican continental margin: in Guerrero (Briones and Lozano 1982), and in Sinaloa (Hendrickx 1985, no precise locality). It is readily recognized by its abdominal somites and characteristic highly raised spines on the carapace, both with small pale yellow speckles.

Since 1983, commercial catches of *P. inflatus* and *P. gracilis* off the coast of Mazatlan have been routinely obtained (LOBSTER Project). Three specimens of *P. penicillatus* (Olivier) were collected: 1 ♀ (05 May 1983), off Lobos Island, Mazatlan Bay, Mexico, "californiana" lobster trap, at 7-8 m on rocky bottom; 1 ♂ (06 February 1990), and 1 ♀ (24 September 1990), off Chivos Island, Mazatlan, Mexico, gill net, at 6-7 m and 3-4 m on rocky bottom.

The three specimens collected off Mazatlan were in their adult phase. One female was not gravid and the other recently spawned, indicating that there is a reproductive population in the area. The field stations where the male and the female recently spawned were caught, are located only 20 m and 6 m off a sandy beach in Chivos Island, and should therefore not be considered an "island" from a zoogeographic point of view. Although all records to date are from islands or rocky islets, it is noteworthy that recent captures were obtained very close to shore.

In southern Sinaloa, specimens were caught on the protected side of the islands, a fact that could be critical for the settlement and survival of a population in the area. Each specimen of *P. penicillatus* was collected together with *P. inflatus*; at Lobos Island, 9 specimens of *P. inflatus* were caught in 20 lobster traps, and at Chivos Island, 23 and 10 individuals of *P. inflatus* were captured in a gill net.

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Luis Miguel Flores-Campaña, Raúl Pérez-González

Laboratorio de Invertebrados y Ecología de Bentos, Escuela Ciencias del Mar, U.A.S. Apdo. Postal 610, Mazatlán, Sinaloa, México.