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Scientific note

Unusual record of the fathead sculpin *Psychrolutes marmoratus* in inshore shallow waters of North Patagonia

(Teleostei, Psychrolutidae)

Mathias Hüne, Verena Häussermann & Günter Försterra

The fish family Psychrolutidae comprises nine genera and approximately 37 species, which are characterized by having large fleshy heads and bodies that taper into small, flat tails with naked skin (Günther 1861). They predominantly inhabit deep waters (~200 m to 1500 m) of the continental slope of both hemispheres (Froese & Pauly 2019). In the sub-Antarctic waters of South America, the Psychrolutidae are represented by three species: *Cottunculus granulosus* (Karrer, 1968) from the Atlantic coast (22°44'S) and around the Falkland/Malvinas Islands, through the southern cone of South America to the Gulf of Penas (47°31'S) (Lima & Mincarone 2004, Reyes 2007); *Psychrolutes sio* (Nelson, 1980) from northern Peru (03°47'S) to the Gulf of Penas (47°31'S) (Nelson et al. 1985, Reyes 2007); and *Psychrolutes marmoratus* (Gill, 1889) from Chile (40°34'S) around the southern tip of South America to 35°30'S, Argentina, including the Falkland/Malvinas slope (Nelson 1977, Pequeño 1981). They are bathydemersal species that usually occur at depths of 93–2000 m, 150–2000 m, and 45–523 m, respectively (Nelson & Nakamura 1980, Nelson et al. 1985, Reyes 2007, Laptikhovsky et al. 2017). However, Nelson (1977) reported that *P. marmoratus* occurs at depths of 29–146 m, which could be related to Norman's report (1937) of a small specimen (10 cm length), which was collected between 14 and 78 m by a small beam trawl in the Strait of Magellan. Without reliable records of *P. marmoratus* from shallow coastal waters, Pequeño (1981) listed this species only for deeper water of the continental shelf and upper slope. This information was supported by Ojeda (1983), who found a specimen off the Pacific coast of southern South America (52° S) at 233 m depth. Nowadays, *P. marmoratus* is known as part of the trawl fishery bycatch of the Patagonian hake (*Merluccius australis*) in southern Chile. Here we report a rare record of *P. marmoratus* from a shallow channel of North Patagonia. The specimen was photographed and collected at 19 m depth in November 2011 at Huemules Island (45°54.933'S, 73°39.682'W) (Fig. 1a). The specimen (~20 cm TL) exhibited the characteristic branched cirri on the head and the irregular pattern of coloration with dark blotches described by Nelson (1977) (Fig. 1b–c). Our finding represents the first well-documented record of this rare species from inshore shallow waters of North Patagonia, suggesting that this species could be more common in coastal waters than previously thought.

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Mathias Hüne, Centro de Investigación para la Conservación de los Ecosistemas Australes (ICEA), Punta Arenas, Chile
Verena Häussermann (corresponding author), Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad San Sebastián, Puerto Montt, Chile; and Huinay Foundation, Chile; e-mail: verena.haussermann@uss.cl
Günter Försterra, Facultad de Recursos Naturales, Escuela de Ciencias del Mar, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaıso, Avda. Brasil 2950, Valparaıso, Chile

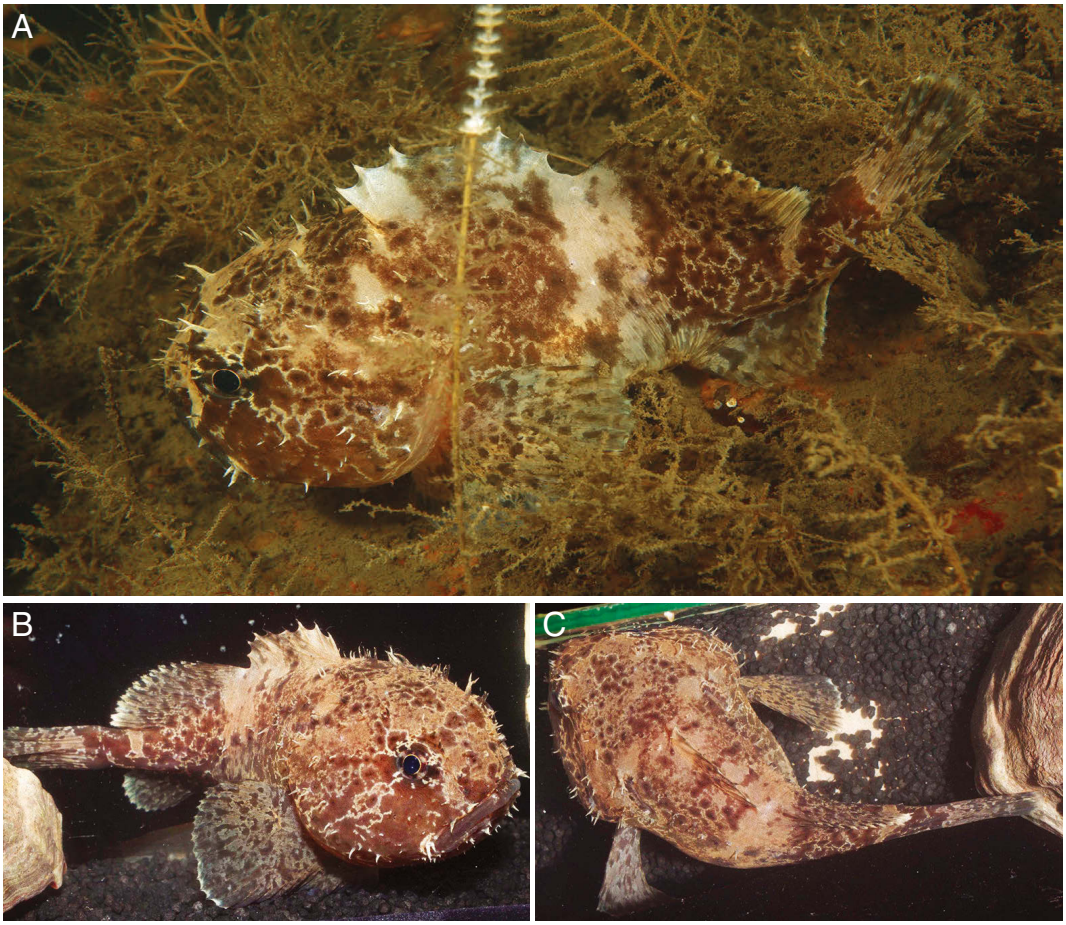

Fig. 1. *Psychrolutes marmoratus* (Gill, 1889) from shallow water of North Patagonia. **A.** *P. marmoratus*, Huemules Island, at 19 m depth, photo: G. Försterra. **B** and **C.** Lateral and dorsal views of *P. marmoratus*, respectively, ~ 20 cm TL.

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