

How to catch a small squid? First records for the Gulf of California and southwest Mexico

November 18 2015



A specimen of the small squid species *Pterygoteuthis giardi*. Credit: Brian Urbano

Often avoiding sampling gear with their capability to detect movements and swim their way out of the nets fast enough, the small squids living in the open-ocean zone have so long gone under-researched. The present study, conducted by Dr. Michel Hendrickx, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, and his team, seems to provide new and first distributional records of five such species for the Gulf of California and in southwestern Mexico. It also significantly expands the currently known southernmost limit of localities of some of these squids in the eastern Pacific. The research is available in the open-access journal *ZooKeys*.

The researched five [squid](#) species belong to two genera, *Abraliopsis* and *Pterygioteuthis*, which although abundant and diverse, have long been shrouded by taxonomic and distributional controversies. To solve them, the researchers used specimens, collected over the span of thirteen years, comprising eight cruises across 113 locations in the Gulf of California and off the southwestern coast of Mexico.

As a result, the scientists concluded a significantly wider distributional range of the species they found. For instance, squids of the *Abraliopsis* genus were surprisingly found in water deeper than 600 m during the day.

The studied small squids are of high ecological value due to their vital position in the food web. Members of *Abraliopsis* are important preys for many fishes and mammals, such as the peruvian hake, the Indo-Pacific sailfish, the common dolphinfish and the local sharks. Meanwhile, the representatives of the other researched genus, *Pterygioteuthis*, are often consumed by larger cephalopods, sea-birds and fur seals. However, their abundance is strongly dependent on temperature, especially when there are fast and significant changes.

The scientists suggest that additional samplings with more adequate equipment, like faster large-sized mid-water trawls, could further bridge the knowledge gaps about these elusive marine inhabitants.



The vessel, called El Puma, used during the present research in the Mexican Pacific. Credit: Michel E. Hendrickx and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

More information: Michel Hendrickx et al. Distribution of pelagic squids *Abraliopsis Joubin*, 1896 (Enoploteuthidae) and *Pterygioteuthis P. Fischer*, 1896 (Pyroteuthidae) (Cephalopoda, Decapodiformes, Oegopsida) in the Mexican Pacific, *ZooKeys* (2015). [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.537.6023](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.537.6023)

Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: How to catch a small squid? First records for the Gulf of California and southwest Mexico (2015, November 18) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-11-small-squid-gulf-california-southwest.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.