

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

First record of *Hippocampus erectus* Perry, 1810 (Pisces, Syngnathidae, Actinopterygii) at 100 meters deepNatalie V. Freret-Meurer^{1,2} & José V. Andreata¹

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Abstract. Seahorse *Hippocampus erectus* is cosmopolitan occurring between 52° N and 45° S and they can be found in mangroves, sea grasses, coral reefs and rocky shores. They are usually found between 1 and 15 meters deep, but have already recorded its presence at depths less than 1 meter. Only one specimen was captured next to Cabo Frio, between 23° 07'S and 042° 03'W, at 100 meters deep.

Keywords: depth, seahorse, cavalo-marinho, fish, Brazil

Resumo. Primeira ocorrência de *Hippocampus erectus* (Pisces, Syngnathidae, Actinopterygii) a 100 metros de profundidade.

O cavalo-marinho *Hippocampus erectus* é cosmopolita, ocorrendo nas latitudes 52° N e 45° S, encontrados manguezais, gramas marinhas, recifes de corais e costões rochosos. São usualmente encontrados entre 1 e 15 metros de profundidade, entretanto há relato da presença em profundidades inferiores a 1 metro. Um espécime foi capturado próximo a Cabo Frio, entre 23° 07'S e 042° 03'W, à profundidade de 100 metros.

Palavras-chave: profundidade, cavalo-marinho, peixe, Brasil

Researches from Santa Úrsula University and from the "Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle" accomplished the oceanographic cruise MD-55 in 1987. The aim this work was to study the bottom-fishes from the continental platform around Trindade and Martin Vaz Islands. Samples were accomplished by the French R.V. "Marion Dufresne" towing a Blake trawl for 20 minutes.

Only one specimen of *Hippocampus erectus* Perry, 1810 (Syngnathidae) next to Cabo Frio, between 23° 07'S and 042° 03'W, at 100 meters deep, was captured. The specimen was a female measuring 81mm from the tip of the coronet to the tip of the straightened tail, which is stored at the Ichthyological Collection of Santa Úrsula University, number: USU 01018.

Hippocampus erectus occurs off Canada, Bermudas Gulf of Mexico, Brazil (LOURIE *et al.*, 1999) and Argentina (ROBINS & RAY, 1986). It is a common species on the brazilian coast, but less abundant than *Hippocampus reidi* Ginsburg, 1933 (DIAS *et al.*, 2002). According to MAZZONI *et al.* (2000), *H. erectus* suffers a high human pressure and is classified as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (HILTON-TAYLOR, 2000). This species is usually captured by otter trawl net. The maximum depth registered for *H. erectus* is 73 meters (VARI, 1982; LOURIE *et al.* 1999), although the species is characteristic of shallow waters.

Hippocampus erectus presents high tolerance to salinity and temperature, occurring in mangroves and also in deeper colder waters (BÖHLKE, 1982).

According to KY *apud* LOURIE *et al.* (1999) and GOMON (1997), *H. minotaur* GOMON (1997) and *H. trimaculatus* (LEACH, 1814) has also been sampled at 100 meters deep. The occurrence of these species at great depths is not a common event.

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