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First occurrence of speckletail flounder, *Engyophrys sanctilaurentii* Jordan & Bollman 1890 (Pisces: Bothidae), in California

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ABSTRACT

Dragonets (family Callionymidae) are widespread and diverse in the Indo-West Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, but only one species, blacklip dragonet (*Synchiropus atrilabiatatus*), occurs in the Eastern Pacific. This article reports the first occurrences of this species in California waters. Two specimens were collected by trawl in the Southern California Bight following the 1997-1998 El Niño, one (56 mm standard length; SL) at 97 m off Santa Catalina Island on July 23, 1998 and one (90 mm SL) at 100 m off Point Loma, California, on July 19, 1999. The capture of the blacklip dragonet off Santa Catalina Island represents a range extension of 650 km north of its northernmost record near Bahía Playa Maria, Baja California, Mexico.

Full Text

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