

First Occurrence of Speckletail Flounder, *Engyophrys sanctilaurentii* Jordan & Bollman 1890 (Pisces: Bothidae), in California

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ABSTRACT

Currently there are 29 species of flatfishes representing three families (Paralichthyidae, Pleuronectidae, and Cynoglossidae) in California, with an additional species and family (Pacific lined sole, *Achirus mazatlanus*; family Achiridae) reported just below the United States-Mexico International Border (Hubbs et. al. 1979; Lea et al. 1989; Lea in prep.) This paper reports the first occurrence of the 30th species of flatfish in California and the first occurrence of the family Bothidae in the state. Seven California species (gulf sanddab, *Citharichthys fragilis*; Pacific sanddab, *Citharichthys sordidus*; speckled sanddab, *Citharichthys stigmaeus*; longfin sanddab, *Citharichthys xanthostigma*; bigmouth sole, *Hippoglossina stomata*; California halibut, *Paralichthys californicus*; and fantail sole, *Xystreurys liolepsis*) placed in Bothidae in Robins et. al. (1991) and earlier references have been placed in Paralichthyidae by most recent authoritative references (Nelson 1994, Hensley 1995b, Moser and Sumida 1996, Eschmeyer 1998).

On August 6, 1998, an unusual flatfish, 80 mm standard length (SL), was collected north of La Jolla Submarine Canyon, California (latitude 31°53.32' N and longitude 117°16.66' W) at a depth of 63 m in a 7.6-m wide (headrope) semiballoon otter trawl with 1.2-cm cod-end mesh. It was collected during the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project. Scientists working for the City of San Diego, Metropolitan Wastewater Department, Environmental Monitoring and Technical Services brought the specimen to the attention of M. J. Allen, who identified it as a speckletail flounder, *Engyophrys sanctilaurentii* Jordan & Bollman 1890. This specimen has been catalogued in the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) Marine Vertebrates Collection (SIO 00-81).

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