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Records of the Pacific Bearded Brotula, *Brotula clarkae*, from Southern California

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Brotula* (Family: Ophidiidae) is characterized as having a circumtropical and subtropical marine distribution (Hubbs 1944; Nielsen et al. 1999). Two species are known from the Eastern Pacific: Fore-spotted Brotula (*Brotula ordwayi* Hildebrand & Barton, 1949) and Pacific Bearded Brotula (*Brotula clarkae* Hubbs, 1944). Of the two species, *Brotula clarkae* is more common and is known from higher, more subtropical latitudes in both hemispheres. Recently, *Brotula flaviviridis* was described by Greenfield (2005) from the Fiji Islands; however, this species appears to be a Fiji archipelago endemic or perhaps a species of limited distribution in the Central Pacific. Love *et al.* (2005) noted that the Pacific Bearded Brotula is found in the Eastern Tropical Pacific from Cabo San Lazaro, Baja California Sur to Paita, Peru, including Gulf of California, at depths of 1 - 645 m.

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