NEW BATHYMETRIC RECORD FOR THE GENUS *Sicyonia* IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA, MEXICO (EASTERN PACIFIC)

Nuevo registro batimétrico para el género *Sicyonia* en el Golfo de California, México (Pacífico oriente).

**RESUMEN:** Se comunica la ampliación del intervalo batimétrico para una especie del género *Sicyonia*. *S. disedwardsi*, previamente recolectada hasta 249 m de profundidad, fue encontrada entre 850-880 m de profundidad en condiciones casi anóxicas, durante un crucero realizado en el SE del golfo de California.

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The family *Sicyoniidae* contains only one genus (*Sicyonia*) represented in the eastern Pacific by 12 species. Species of *Sicyonia* are primarily shelf species but some species extend their bathymetric range to the upper slope; *S. disedwardsi* is known to 229 m (Hendrickx, 1996) and 249 m (Pérez-Farfan, 1985). Recent sampling allow us to report on a specimen of *Sicyonia* captured at a depth of 850-880 m with a 2.35 m wide bottom sledge (depth measured with an Edo Western echosounder) in almost anoxic environment (oxygen measured with a SEABIRD CTD-O2, 15 m above bottom).

**Material examined.** *Sicyonia disedwardsi*, one female (EMU-5384), TALUD VII cruise, B/O “El Puma”, Station 32 B (26°3.0’ N, 109°55.4’ W), 09/VI/2001, bottom sledge, 850-880 m. Dissolved oxygen concentration at sampling station was 0.10 ml/l and temperature was 5.9 °C (measured 15 m above bottom).

This record represents a first evidence of a connection between slope and shelf benthic faunas in the SE Gulf of California. Indeed, recent results indicate that in this area shelf and slope benthic communities are separated by a wide minimum oxygen layer that extends roughly from 150-200 to 700-800 m depth, acting as an ecological barrier (Hendrickx, 2001). The locality where *S. disedwardsi* was found, however, is further north than sampling stations analyzed by Hendrickx (1996); width of the minimum oxygen layer is known to decrease in the central Gulf as it gets closer to Tiburon Island (Parker, 1964). Records for *Sicyonia disedwardsi* on the Gulf of California continental shelf indicate that this species occasionally tolerates severe hypoxia (i.e., six captures with dissolved oxygen concentration between 0.63 and 1.0 ml/l) [Hendrickx (op. cit.)].

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**REFERENCES**


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