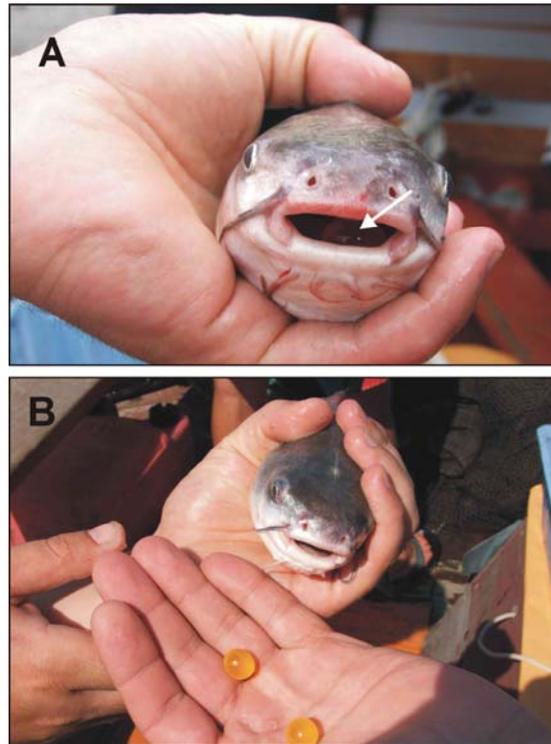




Genidens genidens (Cuvier) (Pisces, Ariidae), oral incubation of eggs

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Sea catfishes represent a major resource in artisanal fisheries along the East Coast of South America, and several species, usually males, have been reported incubating eggs or young in areas of low salinity (Gomes & Araújo 2004). In fact, species of this family produce the largest eggs among teleosts (Wallace & Selman 1981). During the incubation period, males show an expansion of the hyoid region probably to increase the space available to carry eggs or young. Size of the oral cavity, therefore, can limit fecundity in this species (Chaves 1994; Gomes & Araújo 2004). The above specimen was photographed by AMG on November 15th, 2005, at São Gonçalo Channel, a natural channel connecting Mirim and Patos lagoons in the Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil. The individual (ca. 202 mm) was caught by bottom trawling below the São Gonçalo's dam. We observed only two eggs, with a diameter of approx. 15 mm each, inside the oral cavity. As previously observed by Chaves (1994), eggs and larvae could be expelled out of the oral cavity due to the stress caused during the capture of the individual. He also mentioned that adults engaged in oral incubation usually show total length from 192 and 270 mm, and have eggs with maximum diameter ranging between 13.1 and 15.5 mm and weight ranging between 1.5 and 1.9 g each. Picture characteristics: Digital Machine model Fujifilm® FinePix S5100; Resolution of 4.2 megapixels (72 dpi); diaphragm aperture 5.7; time of exposition 1/480; Speed ISO-64.

References

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