

***Eptatretus chinensis*: a New Species of Hagfish (Myxinidae; Myxiniformes) from the South China Sea**

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Chien-Hsien Kuo and Hin-Kiu Mok (1994) *Eptatretus chinensis*: a new species of hagfish (Myxinidae; Myxiniformes) from the South China Sea. *Zoological Studies* 33(4): 246-250. A new species of hagfish, *Eptatretus chinensis*, which was collected from a depth of 600 meters in the South China Sea (E 113°14', N 19°37'), is described. It is a six-gilled species with a three-cusp multicuspid tooth in each tooth row and slime pores in the branchial region.

Key words: *Eptatretus*, Taxonomy, South China Sea.

According to The Fishes of the Sea Islands in the South China Sea (Science Press, China, 1979), no hagfish had been reported in the South China Sea (between 110°-120°E and 4°-23°N). *Eptatretus burgeri*, living in the coastal waters off Fujian Province, China, was the only hagfish species reported in the area (Fishes of Fujian Province Editorial Subcommittee 1984: 12p.).

During our May 1989 research cruise in the South China Sea the continental slope, at depths around 600 meters, was subjected to bottom trawls. Five *Eptatretus* hagfish were captured. Their morphology was compared with *Eptatretus burgeri* and other Atlantic species of the genus *Eptatretus*, with six gill apertures and 3/3 cusps on multicuspid teeth. Morphologically, the specimens are conspecific and merit description as a new species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In May 1989, five hagfish were collected by trawl from about 600 meters in the South China Sea, east of Hainan Island, (E 113°14', N 19°37'). They were preserved in 10% formalin and deposited in the fish collection at the Institute of Marine Biology, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU).

Terminology as well as methods of counts and measurements follow Dean (1904), Shen and Tao (1975), Fernholm and Hubbs (1981), and McMillan and Wisner (1984). Features counted and measured are shown in Fig. 1. Total length of specimen is measured from tip of the snout to the posterior margin of the tail. Gill pouches (GP) are numbered anterior to posterior. All counts are taken from the left side; all measurements are expressed in percentage of the total length.

***Eptatretus chinensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 2, 3; Table 1)

Holotype: NSYSU 2866; 348 mm TL; sex not determined; South China Sea (E 113°14', N 19°37'); Depth 600 meters; May 1989.

Paratypes: Two specimens taken with holotype: NSYSU 2867; 352 and 335 mm TL.

Diagnosis: Six pairs of gill pouches and gill apertures, gill apertures arranged in a straight line (Fig. 3); slime pores (15-19) + (4-5) + (42-45) + (11-14), branchial region with slime pores; three medium unicuspid teeth in both outer and inner tooth row fused given rise to a multicuspid tooth; dental formula 10 + 3/3 + 10; no whitish mid-dorsal stripe, prominent eye spots present.

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