

Studies on the Zoarcidae (Teleostei: Perciformes) of the Southern Hemisphere. XIII. Two New Species of *Lycenchelys* from the Southwestern Pacific

M. Eric Anderson¹ and Peter Rask Møller²

¹South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity, Private Bag 1015,
Grahamstown 6140, South Africa
E-mail: E.Anderson@ru.ac.za

²Zoological Museum, Natural History Museum, University of Copenhagen,
Universitetsparken 15, Copenhagen, D-2100, Denmark
E-mail: pdrmoller@snm.ku.dk

(Received 2 November 2006; Accepted 24 May 2007)

Two new species of eelpouts of the genus *Lycenchelys* Gill, 1884 are described from the southwestern Pacific Ocean, bringing the number of zoarcid species in the region to 11. *Lycenchelys novaezealandiae* sp. nov. is distinguished from its congeners mainly by its high vertebral and unpaired fin-ray counts, position of the dorsal fin origin, short nostril tube, relatively low number of scales above the anus, and pigment pattern. *Lycenchelys polyodon* sp. nov. is distinguished from its congeners mainly by possessing the greatest number of palatal teeth in the genus, a short nostril tube, a relatively long head, and the greatest number of scales above the anus of any species of *Lycenchelys* in the region. A key to all 11 species of eelpouts in the southwestern Pacific is provided.

Key Words: Teleostei, Zoarcidae, *Lycenchelys*, eelpout, new species, southwestern Pacific Ocean, New Zealand, Lord Howe Rise.

Introduction

Eelpouts (Zoarcidae) first became known in the southwestern Pacific when Parin (1977) described the appropriately named *Melanostigma inexpectatum* Parin, 1977 from north of Papua New Guinea. Subsequently he described *M. vitiazi* Parin, 1979 from the nearby Banda Sea, Indonesia (Parin 1979). Andriashev and Fedorov (1986) described the first eelpouts from New Zealand, *Ophthalmolycus campbellensis* Andriashev and Fedorov, 1986 and *Lycenchelys maoriensis* Andriashev and Fedorov, 1986. Anderson (1990) reviewed all eelpout records from the southwestern Pacific and added a new species, *Pachycara garricki* Anderson, 1990, to the ichthyofauna. Since then, three additional eelpouts have been described from the area: *Dieidolycus adocetus* Anderson, 1994 and *Pyrolycus manusanus* Machida and Hashimoto, 2002, both from the Bismarck Sea, and *P. moelleri* Anderson, 2006 from the Kermadec Ridge (Anderson 1994a, 2006; Machida and Hashimoto 2002).

We reexamined specimens that Anderson (1990) had assigned to *Lycenchelys*