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REFERENCE ONLY

Sculpins Family Cottidae

Most of the large number of sculpin species are found in the northern hemisphere.

Only the genus *Antipodocottus* Bolin, 1952 occurs south of the equator. The two species in this genus are apparently restricted to New Zealand waters. As yet they are poorly known, partly because of their small size (maximum standard length of less than 50 mm) and relatively deep habitat (about 500 m). One species is known from only a single specimen.

Distinctive characters

Large head with big eyes set well forward and high; preoperculum armed with a series of simple and barbed spines, the operculum without spines; body without scales except for a partial or almost complete series of lateral line scales; fins not covered by skin; pelvic fins reduced to a spine and two rays.

Key

Key to species of *Antipodocottus*.

Lateral line with five to 14 scales on each side *A. galathea*
Lateral line with 32 or 33 scales on each side *A. megalops*

Relationships

A. megalops is so far known from only one specimen taken on the Bounty Platform to the south-east of New Zealand.

Specimens of *A. galathea* differ somewhat according to whether they come from the Tasman Sea or from the eastern coasts of New Zealand. The exact status of the two species is therefore still uncertain.

Antipodocottus galathea
(Bolin, 1952)

Distinctive characters

Lateral line scales number 5 to 10 in juveniles, 11 to 14 in adults. Tasman Sea specimens have single terminal mandibular pores while those of east coast fish are paired.

Colour

Pale grey with irregular darker blotches and cross-bars on the sides of the body. In males most of the first dorsal fin is dark while the second dorsal and the basal part of the anal

fin are weakly pigmented. Females have a similar but much paler pigmentation.

Size

Maximum length about 6 cm.

Distribution

Found in depths of 400 to 600 m around the New Zealand mainland. The majority of known specimens have been taken off the north-east coast of North Island but one specimen was trawled off the Otago Peninsula. The type locality is off the west coast of the South Island.

Antipodocottus megalops
(De Witt, 1969)

Distinctive characters

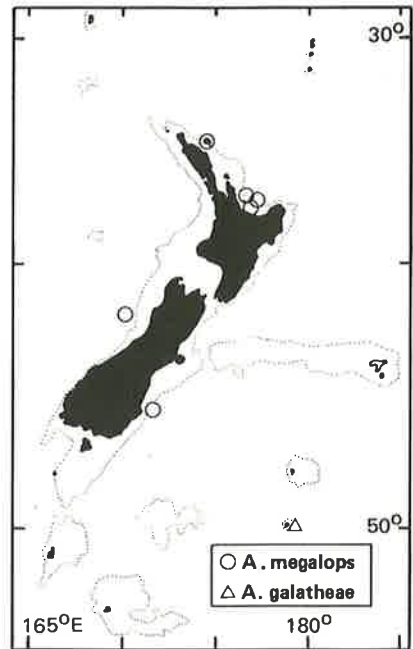
Lateral line scales (in the only known specimen) number 32 and 33 on the two sides. The terminal mandibular pores are paired.

Size

Only known specimen was 5 cm long.

Colour

Body grey with indistinct darker



Distribution of sculpins around New Zealand.

blotches. A dark band from eye to tip of lower jaw and another to corner of mouth. The fins dark with white tips.

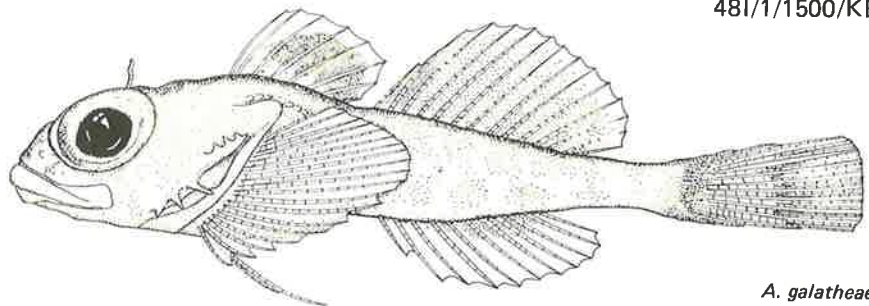
Distribution

As yet taken only in about 500 m near the Antipodes Islands.

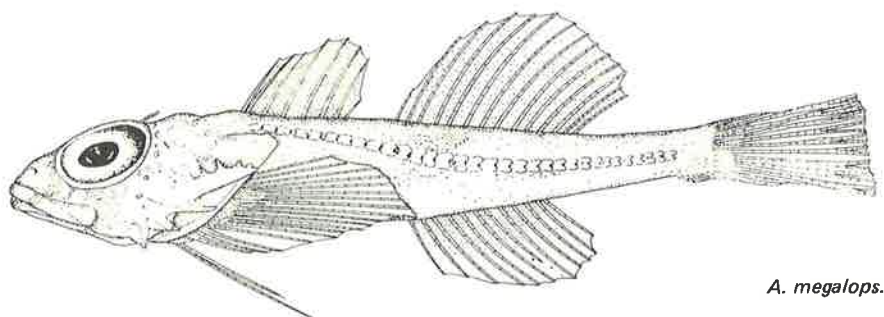


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A. galathea.



A. megalops.