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Two new records of fishes from the coast of Senegal

(Pisces)

Peter Wirtz

Wirtz, P. 2014. Two new records of fishes from the coast of Senegal (Pisces). *Spixiana* 37(1): 151–152.

Didogobius cf. *wirtzi* and *Liopropoma* cf. *emanueli* are recorded from the coast of Senegal. A previous mistaken record of *Cephalopholis adscensionis* is corrected.

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Introduction

Cadenat (1950) summarized the state of knowledge on the marine fishes of Senegal. Since then, numerous publications have noted the presence of additional species, described new species and/or revised genera and families of the area (e. g. Cadenat 1953, Cadenat 1960, Wirtz 1980, Séret & Opic 1981, Edwards 1986, Bath 1990, Rocha et al. 2012, Wirtz 2012). The coasts of Senegal, however, are still poorly explored and without doubt many cryptic species remain to be detected, in particular by SCUBA diving. During dives at the coast of Senegal, in the vicinity of Dakar, two fish species were observed that apparently have not yet been recorded from the African mainland coast.

Material and methods

Observations were made while SCUBA diving at the western tip of the Cape Verde peninsula, in the area of NGor Island (14°45' N, 17°30' E) and Madeleine islets (14°39' N, 17°28' W), in May 2012. The animals were photographed in the field but no specimens were collected. The photos of *Liopropoma* and *Didogobius* from Senegal are available at www.fishbase.org and have been deposited in the photo collection of the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology (Zoologische Staatssammlung) in Munich.

Results

Didogobius cf. *wirtzi* Schliewen & Kovačić, 2008

The species *Didogobius wirtzi* Schliewen & Kovačić, 2008 was described from Santiago Island, Cape Verde Islands. There it lives in a depth range of at least 10 to 20 m, in burrows of the circum-tropical axiid shrimp *Axiopsis serratifrons*, on sandy-gravelly bottoms (Schliewen & Kovačić 2008). On 8 May 2012, a *Didogobius* was encountered on sandy bottom close to the Isles Madelaine in 15 m depth. The animal was at the entrance of a burrow that presumably was built by an *Axiopsis serratifrons*. A single photo could be taken before the animal disappeared into the burrow. Comparing this photo with photos from the Cape Verde Islands (Schliewen & Kovačić 2008), it appears almost certain that these animals belong to the same species. The next most similar species would be *Didogobius amicuscaridis* Schliewen & Kovačić, 2008 from Sao Tomé, but the animal photographed at the Isles Madelaine differ from it in having a light head and a white shoulder region (versus dark head and dark brown shoulder region in *D. amicuscaridis*).

Liopropoma cf. *emanueli* Wirtz & Schliewen, 2012

The species *Liopropoma emanueli* Wirtz & Schliewen, 2012 was described from Santiago Island, Cape Verde Islands. There it lives in a depth range of at least 20 to 40 m in rocky habitat (Wirtz & Schliewen 2012).

On 4 May 2012, a *Liopropoma* was encountered in 26 m depth at the dive site Rabacissé near NGor Island. The animal disappeared quickly below a rock. On 6 May 2012, three more *Liopropoma* were encountered in 37 m depth at the dive site Masai near NGor Island. Several photos of one of them could be taken, before it disappeared below a big rock. Comparing photos of the animal from Senegal and from the Cape Verde Islands (Wirtz & Schliewen 2012), it appears almost certain that these animals belong to the same species.

Cephalopholis nigri (Günther, 1859)

Wirtz (2012) recorded the presence of *Epinephelus adscensionis* (Osbeck, 1765) at the coast of Senegal. To check his provisional identification, he had sent underwater photos of the species to two specialists for the fish family Serranidae, who confirmed the species as being *Epinephelus adscensionis* (Osbeck, 1756). These photos, printed in Wirtz (2012), however, show very colourful individuals of another species, namely *Cephalopholis nigri* (Günther, 1859) (L. Rocha, pers. comm.). *Cephalopholis nigri* has already been recorded from Senegal by Cadenat (1950).

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