

NOTA

FIRST RECORD OF THE PIGMY SQUID, *PICKFORDIATEUTHIS PULCHELLA* (CEPHALOPODA: MYOPSIDA: LOLIGINIDAE), FROM THE CARIBBEAN COAST OF COLOMBIA.

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RESUMEN

Primer registro del calamar pigmeo *Pickfordiateuthis pulchella* (Cephalopoda: Myopsida: Loliginidae) para la costa Caribe de Colombia. Se registra por primera vez para el Caribe colombiano el calamar "pigmeo", *Pickfordiateuthis pulchella*, a partir de cuatro hembras colectadas en cercanías de Santa Marta. Aunque esta especie no era conocida de la costa continental del norte de Suramérica, el alto grado de dispersión de los pocos registros conocidos sugiere que su distribución en el Atlántico occidental es bastante amplia.

The type species of the small squids genus *Pickfordiateuthis*, *P. pulchella* Voss, 1953, was described from the Florida keys also as the type species of the family Pickfordiateuthidae, and, according to Voss (1953), it was probably geographically confined to this area. Despite the fact that this small squid was reported later from other areas in the tropical western Atlantic, the species has recently been reported as endemic to the Florida keys and the Gulf of Mexico (Salcedo-Vargas, 1991) appearing this as a bewildering circumstance. A recent revision of the genus *Pickfordiateuthis*, Brakoniecki (1996) placed it in the family Loliginidae, added further records of *P. pulchella* in the Caribbean, and called attention to the existence of at least one other, unnamed species of the genus in this region. However, none of the species of *Pickfordiateuthis* has so far been recorded from Colombian waters.

Pickfordiateuthis pulchella has been recorded from off Miami, the Florida Keys (Voss, 1953; Brakoniecki, 1996), Bonaire (Moolenbeek, 1984), off Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil (Haimovici et al., 1989; Pérez and Haimovici, 1991), Pedro Bank, off western Panama, off Nicaragua, and Saint Martin (Brakoniecki, 1996) (figure 1). The present record is based on four females (mantle length 11.5, 10.9, 8.7 and 7.9 mm), collected from

bottom-trawl samples (December 1994, March and September 1995) at depths ranging from 13 to 16.5 m on muddy bottoms, at Ensenada de Pozos Colorados (11° 10'N; 74° 14'W), near Santa Marta (figure 1). Although the Caribbean coast of Colombia may fall within the known distribution range of the other, yet unnamed species of *Pickfordiateuthis* (Gulf of Honduras, west Venezuela to Guyana, see Brakoniecki 1996), the morphological features of the four specimens collected near Santa Marta correspond very well to those of *P. pulchella*. The material has been deposited in the Colección de Referencia of the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras at Santa Marta, Colombia (INVEMAR Mol-1098).

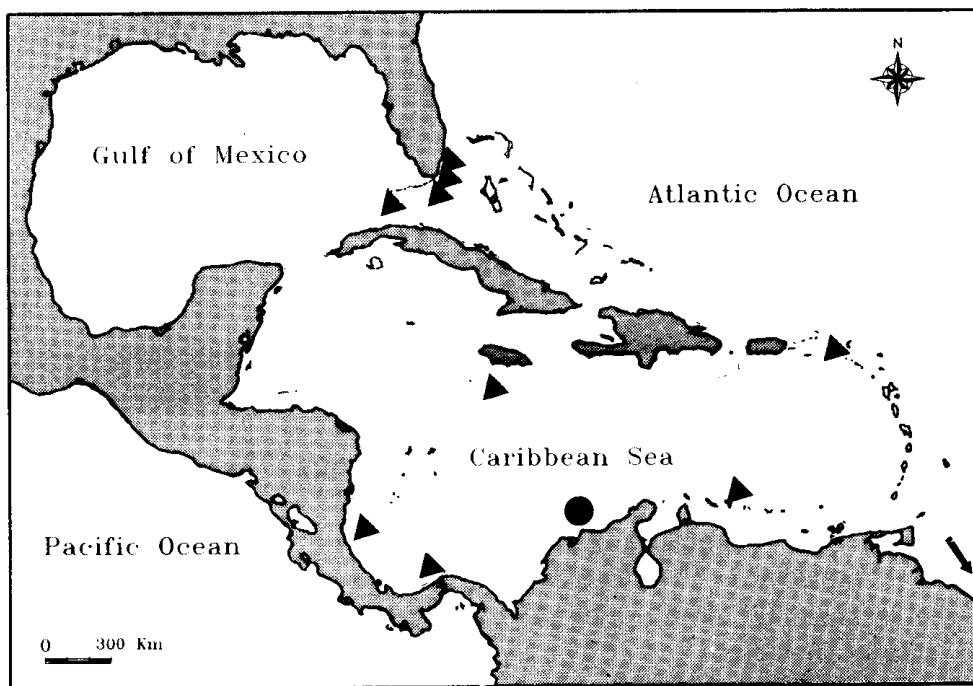


Figure 1. Previous (triangles) and new record (circle) of *Pickfordiateuthis pulchella*; the arrow on the lower right corner refers to records off Rio de Janeiro and off São Paulo, Brazil.

Despite the fact that *P. pulchella* is a large-egged species supposedly lacking a planktonic larval stage (Voss, 1953), the scattered pattern of known records suggests that it has a wide but discontinuous range of distribution within the tropical western Atlantic. Including the present record, the number of reported cephalopod species from the Colombian Caribbean (cf. Díaz and Puyana, 1994) now increases to 18. However, this number is very low compared with those reported from adjacent Venezuelan waters, where 28 species do occur (Arocha et al., 1991). Thus a

substantial increase is expected when further studies are conducted.

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