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**FIRST RECORD OF THE GOLDSPOOT GOBY
GNATHOLEPIS THOMPSONI JORDAN, 1904 (PISCES: GOBIIDAE)
IN MADEIRA ISLAND (NE ATLANTIC OCEAN)***

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With 1 figure

ABSTRACT. The goldspot goby *Gnatholepis thompsoni* Jordan, 1904 is reported from Madeira for the first time. This finding extends the known area of distribution of this species and represents the northernmost record of *G. thompsoni* in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

KEY WORDS: Pisces, Gobiidae, *Gnatholepis thompsoni*, new record, Madeira, NE Atlantic Ocean.

RESUMO. O góbio *Gnatholepis thompsoni* Jordan, 1904 é assinalado pela primeira vez para a Ilha da Madeira. Este registo aumenta a área de distribuição desta espécie, constituindo o assinalamento mais a Norte no Oceano Atlântico Oriental.

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INTRODUCTION

In the eastern tropical Atlantic 18 genera and 36 species of gobies have been recorded (MILLER, 1990), while for the north-eastern Atlantic 12 genera with 31 species were listed by MILLER (1986). Of these, 7 genera and 8 species have been recorded from the archipelago of Madeira, in the northeast Atlantic (MILLER, 1984; WIRTZ, 1998; Van TASSELL, 2001).

The genus *Gnatholepis* contains a number of nominal species but only one, the goldspot goby *Gnatholepis thompsoni* Jordan, 1904, is recorded from the Atlantic (BRITO & MILLER, 2001).

MATERIAL COLLECTED

All the specimens were collected or observed by scuba diving off the south coast of Madeira Island. Meristic counts were made according to BRITO & MILLER (2001).

The collected specimens of *G. thompsoni* have been deposited in the Museu Municipal do Funchal (História Natural) (MMF).

At Cais da Junta, Caniçal, two specimens were caught on a rocky platform near shore:

MMF 34338, SL. 37.3 mm (Fig. 1), 9.5.2002, at a depth of 12 m. Fins: D1 VI; D2 I + 11; AI + 10; P 18.

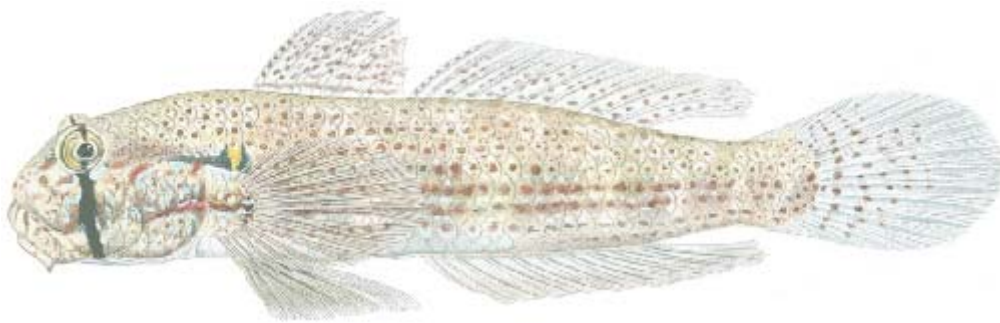


Fig. 1 - *Gnatholepis thompsoni* Jordan, 1904. MMF 34338, SL. 37.3 mm.

MMF 35075, SL. 51.6 mm, 4.12.2002, from a depth of 7 m. Fins: D1 VI; D2 I + 11; AI + 11; P 17.

This species was also observed about 13 km west of Caniçal off Galo (Caniço) at 13 m depth on sand and small rocky boulders and also in the nearby Reserva do Garajau, on sand and large rocky boulders at a depth of 17 m.

DISCUSSION

G. thompsoni is a benthic species, which occurs on sand and rubble in or about reefs, from 0.5 to 50 m (MILLER, 1991). Regardless of the limited material in this work, two specimens only, the counts correspond with those observed for this species on both sides of the Atlantic (BRITO & MILLER, 2001).

In the Atlantic, the goldspot goby *G. thompsoni* was first observed in the western Atlantic where it has been reported from Bermuda and the Bahamas to the northern coasts of South America (ROBINS & RAY, 1986) and also from the oceanic islands of Ascension and St. Helena (EDWARDS & GLASS, 1987). In the eastern Atlantic it has been reported from São Tomé Island (AFONSO *et al.*, 1999), the Cape Verde Islands, and the Canary Islands (BRITO & MILLER, 2001).

MILLER (1984) made a revision of the family Gobiidae for temperate Macaronesia and in that work *G. thompsoni* was not recorded to Madeira Archipelago. This is the first time that *Gnatholepis thompsoni* has been reported from Madeira and, therefore, represents, the most northerly sighting of this species in the eastern Atlantic.

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