

SHORT
COMMUNICATIONS

First Findings of Juvenile Lophiidae in the Sea of Okhotsk

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The family Lophiidae is represented in Russia's waters by three species, one of which—*Lophius piscatorius*—is found in the Black and Barents seas, and the other two of which—*L. litulon* (Jordan in Jordan et Sindo, 1902) and *Lophiomus setigerus*—are known from the Sea of Japan (Parin, 2002) thanks to a few catches containing adult individuals in the Peter the Great Bay and off the Sea of Japan, near the coast of Sakhalin (Kharin and Cheblukov, 2005).

Fry of both species have not been caught in Russia's waters, and we consider it useful to cite recently obtained data documenting their occurrence in the southern part of the Sea of Okhotsk.

L. litulon (Jordan in Jordan et Sindo, 1902) specimen, SL 46.5 mm, caught with dredge on September 1, 1997, in Bay L'vinaya Past' the Iturup Island 44°38' N, 147°06' E, at depth of 130–180 m (ground–volcanic pebble). Collector V. V. Zemnukhov, kept at Institute of Marine Biology, Far Eastern Division, Russian Academy of Sciences—MIMB 12397.

Its meristic characteristics as follows: D II-I-III 10, A 9, P 24, V I 5, C 6, Vert 26. Measurements in % SL: head length from snout to posterior end of cranium ((c) 40.8) 40.8; head length up to gill opening (c_1) 51.6; head width between pterotical spines (PP) 19.3; tail length from beginning of A origin to proximal tips of C rays (IC) 10.7; length of 1st spiny ray of D (hD_1) 10.7; length of 2nd spiny ray of D (hD_2) 1.7; length of 3rd spiny ray of D (hD_3) 17.2; length of insertion of soft rays of D (ID) 21.9; length of A insertion (IA) 22.3; length of P insertion (bP) 10.7; length of maximum ray of P (IP) 40.8; length of insertion of V (bV) 15.0; caudal peduncle depth (h) 6.4; snout length along maxilla (ao_1) 17.2; snout length along mandible (ao_2) 21.5; head depth at level of sphenotical spines (h_1) 23.8; head depth between pterotical spine and lower spine at quadratum (h_2) 21.5; length of maxillare (Imx) 21.7;

eye diameter (o) 6.4; length of interorbital space (io) 15.0. In % c: ao_1 42.1; ao_2 52.6; h_1 58.4; h_2 52.6; Imx 53.1; o 15.8; io 36.8.

L. setigerus (Vahl, 1797) SL 59 mm specimen was caught on November 3, 2004, during cruise of R/V *Professor Kaganovskii* with midwater trawl, at coordinates 45°35' N and 144°48' E; depth of trawling site 1332 m. Collector E.N. Il'inskii kept in Institute of Marine Biology, Far Eastern Division, Russian Academy of Sciences—MIMB 12398.

Meristic characteristics as follows: D I-I-III 8; A 6, P 25, V I 5, C 8, Vert 19. Measurements in % SL: c 35.5; c_1 44.0; PP 25.4; IC 14.4; hD_1 15.2; hD_2 10.1; hD_3 15.2; ID 28.8; IA 27.1; bP 13.5; IP 36.9; bV 10.1; h 6.7; ao_1 17.2; ao_2 25.4; h_1 23.7; h_2 22.0; Imx 16.9; o 10.1; io 28.8. In % c: ao_1 48.5; ao_2 71.4; h_1 66.6; h_2 61.9; Imx 47.6; o 28.5; io 38.0.

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