

Scientific note

Northernmost record of the Cape Verde blenny
Parablennius salensis Bath, 1990

(Teleostei, Blenniiformes, Blennidae)

Alejandro Escáñez & Cristina Camacho-Puerta

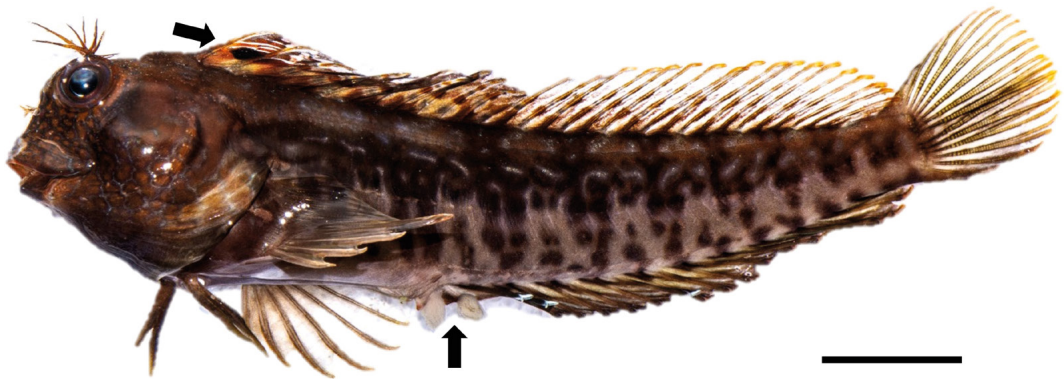


Fig. 1. Male *Parablennius salensis* from Madeira Island, Portugal. The upper arrow points to a dark bluish oval spot on the dorsal fin and the lower arrow points to a white fleshy swelling on the anal spines. Scale bar corresponds to 1 cm.

Two Cape Verde Island blennies, probably *Parablennius salensis*, were spotted at a depth of three meters on rocky substrate with algal turf in Madeira Island, Portugal, on 23 November 2022, (32°38'45.94"N, 16°53'55.21"W). One specimen was captured and subsequently identified using the taxonomic keys provided in Bath (1990) and Carpenter & De Angelis (2016) (Fig. 1, Table 1). It was deposited in the Natural History Museum of Funchal under catalogue number MMF05178.

The individual was a male of 77 mm total length and 3.16 g weight, it had an elongated, laterally compressed body with five supraorbital cirri per eye and four nasal cirri. The lateral line formed a continuous tube with short transverse branches, reaching halfway along the body. The dorsal fin, notched between spiny and soft parts, had 12 spines and 19 segmented soft rays, featuring a dark bluish

oval spot between the first three spines. Pectoral fins had 14 rays, pelvic fins had three segmented rays, and the anal fin had two spines and 21 segmented rays. The caudal fin displayed 14 segmented rays, with the ten central rays branched. A white fleshy swelling on each anal spine indicated its male status (Fig. 1). The position of the dark bluish spot on the dorsal fin, the number of fin spines and rays, and the white fleshy swelling on the anal spines distinguish this species from the similar species *P. pilicornis* and *P. goreensis* present in the Canary Islands, and from other congeneric species from Madeira (Wirtz et al. 2008, Falcón et al. 2015, Carpenter & De Angelis 2016).

Between July and August 2023, further sightings occurred at two other locations (Lido, Funchal and Reis Magos, Caniço). The proximity of the port of Funchal points to a possible introduction through

Alejandro Escáñez, MARE – Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, ARNET – Aquatic Research Network, ARDITI, Edifício Madeira Tecnopolo, Caminho da Penteada, 9020-105, Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal; and Department of Ecology and Animal Biology, Campus As Lagoas-Marcosende, University of Vigo, Vigo, Spain; e-mail: aescanez@ull.edu.es

Cristina Camacho-Puerta, C/Alegranza N°19, apartamento 3, C.P. 35510, Pto. del Carmen, Tías, Lanzarote, Spain

Table 1. Morphometric data from *Parablennius salensis* specimen collected in Madeira.

	Measurements (mm)
Total length	77.5
Standard length	66.9
Head length	18.8
Snout length	5.0
Eye diameter	3.8
Post-orbital length	12.0
Inter-orbital width	6.4
Body depth	12.8
Caudal peduncle depth	5.1
Base of dorsal fin	51.5
Base of anal fin	34.3
Pectoral fin length	11.4
Pelvic fin length	10.1
Predorsal fin length	11.0
Preanal fin length	28.3

maritime traffic, or a poleward expansion in the process of tropicalisation of the ichthyofauna of the Macaronesian region (Brito et al. 2017, Castro et al. 2022). This represents the establishment of a non-indigenous fish species in Madeira, previously endemic to Cape Verde (Wirtz et al. 2013). Future studies should assess its ecological impact and competition with native species.

Acknowledgement

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