Presence of the deep-bodied pipefish, *Leptonotus blainvilleanus* (Eydoux & Gervais, 1837) [Syngnathiformes: Syngnathidae], in San Jorge Gulf, Patagonia, Argentina

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Received 27 February 2012; revised 10 March 2012; accepted 1 April 2012

ABSTRACT

This short report communicates the finding of a Deep-bodied pipefish, *Leptonotus blainvilleanus*, (Eydoux & Gervais, 1837) [Syngnathiformes, Syngnathidae] in shallow waters of the San Jorge Gulf, Patagonia Argentina, in August 2010. It's a new record for its known distribution range in the coast of South America. Photos and videos are available.

Keywords: Pipefish; Syngnathidae; *Leptonotus blainvilleanus*; San Jorge Gulf; Coastal Cold-Temperate Waters; Patagonia Argentina

This finding confirms the presence of *Leptonotus blainvilleanus* in waters of the San Jorge Gulf; resulting in a new record for its known distribution range [4]; as in South America it has been reported in coastal waters, up to 25 meters depth, on the southwest coast of the Atlantic, South to the San José Gulf (Argentina, 42°30'S); and it is estimated that it reaches at least to the North of Chile and possibly to the South of Peru in the Southeast Pacific [5] (See Figure 3).

Although the conservation status of *L. blainvilleanus* still has not been assessed by the IUCN, it’s found in shallow waters of San Jorge Gulf, whose coastal environment is well preserved and with abundant seaweed beds, suggesting that it could support persistent populations of the

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**Figure 1.** Site where the specimen of *L. blainvilleanus* was found in August 2010.
species. Confirming this report, a second specimen was found in April 2011, near Punta del Marqués (45°57’14.53”S - 67°32’17.02”W), swimming between meadows of seaweed at about 8 meters of depth.

REFERENCES


