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The occurrence of *Cynoglossus browni* Chabanaud, 1949, in the North Sea

(Pisces, Pleuronectiformes)

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Through the courtesy of Mr. C. J. Kuiten (Rijksinstituut voor Visserijonderzoek, IJmuiden) the Zoological Museum of the University of Amsterdam received a specimen of the genus *Cynoglossus* Hamilton, 1822, brought in by the fish cutter KW 128 "Leuntje" at IJmuiden. This specimen (ZMA 104.443) was one of four animals, which captain M. van der Plas caught alive in one haul, while trawling on soles off the coast of the Netherlands, 28 miles North West of IJmuiden (52° 45' N 04° 00' E, depth 30 meters) on May 7th, 1965. Three specimens were thrown back into the sea and only one was kept. It was stripped, put on the deck, where it subsequently dried out a little and afterwards put on ice.

Since never a species of the genus *Cynoglossus* has been caught in the Atlantic north of Africa, I tried to find out if the locality indicated was correct. The crew of the fifty years old ship, which was trawling on soles just for a few days near the coast of the Netherlands, however, asserted that it was correct.

The flat-fish genus *Cynoglossus* is characterized by two or three lateral lines on the left side (the side on which the eyes are located). Ventral fins are absent.

Our collection is so poor in Atlantic species of the genus *Cynoglossus*, that the fish was sent to Professor Th. Monod (Pêches Outre-Mer, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris), who kindly compared the specimen with the six *Cynoglossus* species known from the tropical West African area, and identified the animal as *Cynoglossus browni* Chabanaud, 1949 (fig. 1), up to now known from coastal waters from Sénégal to Nigeria and off the Congo coast only (fig. 2), where this species was found by Dr. Ch. Roux (Monod in litt., August 30, 1965).

Received: November 8, 1965.

The meristic data of the specimen are as follows:

total length in cm	43.90
standard length in cm	40.49
number of dorsal rays ¹⁾	120
number of anal rays ¹⁾	95
number of caudal rays ¹⁾	12
vertebrae ¹⁾	56
scale rows between median and upper lateral lines	16
head in % of standard length	19.8
depth in % of standard length	28.7
eye in % of head	4.5
postocular in % of head	63.0
snout in % of head	31.5

¹⁾ counted from X-ray photographs

The following key, modified after CADENAT (1962), comprises the six *Cynoglossus* species known from the West African coast:

- 1a) All scales ctenoid (hinder part provided with a row of small toothlike spines). Two lateral lines on left side, none on right side *C. cadenati* Chabanaud, 1947
- 1b) Scales on right side and on lateral lines of left side cycloid (hinder part smooth). 2
- 2a) Three lateral lines on left side, one on right side . *C. canariensis* Steindachner 1882
(= *C. lagoensis* Regan, 1915)
- 2b) Two lateral lines on left side 3
- 3a) No lateral line on right side *C. browni* Chabanaud, 1949
- 3b) One lateral line on right side 4
- 4a) Number of scale rows between median and upper lateral lines 11 to 13
. *C. monodi* Chabanaud, 1949
- 4b) Number of scale rows between median and upper lateral lines 15 to 20 5
- 5a) Number of scale rows between median and upper lateral lines 15 to 17. Number of scales in median lateral line 105 to 120. Depth of body about $\frac{1}{4}$ of standard length *C. goreensis* Steindachner, 1882
(= *C. senegalensis* Chabanaud et auctorum, non Kaup, 1858)
- 5b) Number of scale rows between median and upper lateral lines 16 to 18. Number of scales in median lateral line 124 to 135. Depth of body about $\frac{1}{3}$ of standard length *C. senegalensis* (Kaup, 1858)
(= *C. guineensis* Osorio, 1915)

C. browni has a maximum length of 50 cm. The number of rays and scales varies as follows: D 118—123, A 93—99, scales in median lateral line 94 to 98, scale rows between median and upper lateral lines 16 to 17. Small eyes are present. At the right side the base of the anterior nasal opening is provided with a collar of about the same diameter as the eye. The mouth in contrast to other species, reaches far beyond the posterior edge of the fixed eye.

RÉSUMÉ

L'espèce *Cynoglossus browni* Chabanaud, 1949, jusqu'ici seulement connue de la côte africaine, a été observée dans la Mer du Nord (7 Mai 1965) au large de la côte néerlandaise.

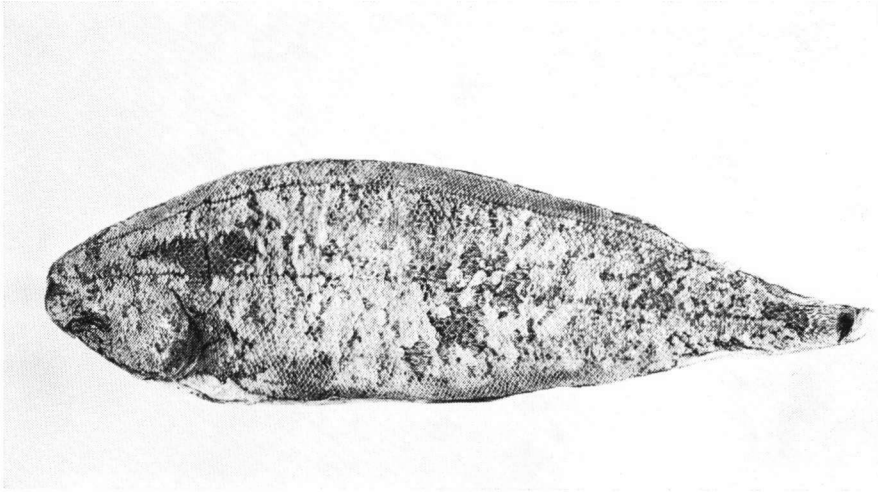


FIG. 1. *Cynoglossus browni* Chabanaud, 1949. Specimen caught off the coast of the Netherlands (ZMA 104.443).

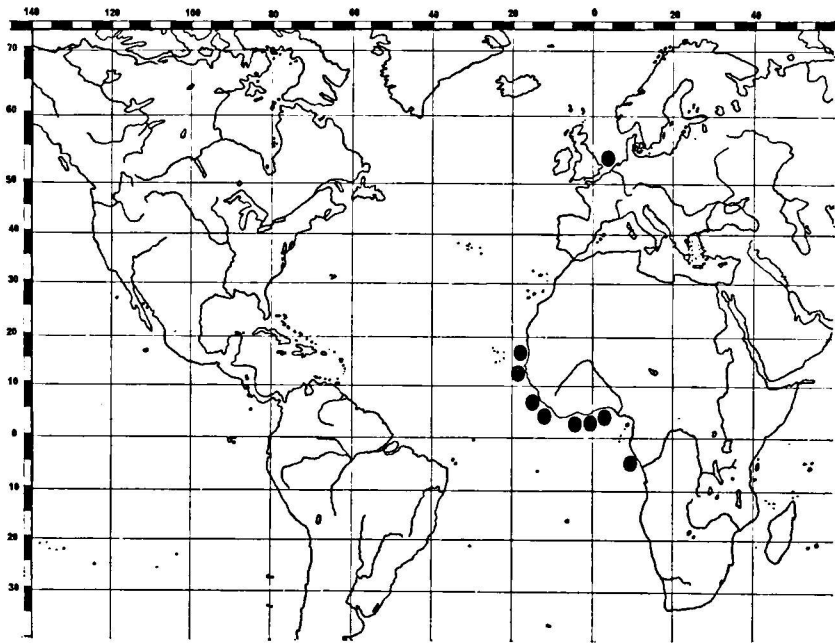


FIG. 2. Distribution of *Cynoglossus browni* Chabanaud, 1949.

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