

Review of: "Reef Fish in the Vitória-Trindade Seamount Chain of the Southwestern Atlantic: Biogeographical Corridors and Impact of Fishing"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Recommendation on the manuscript "Reef Fish in the Vitória-Trindade Seamount Chain of the Southwestern Atlantic: Biogeographical Corridors and Impact of Fishing"

After carefully reading the manuscript, my recommendation is to reject the work for publication.

The work has many serious flaws, which require a complete reformulation before being considered for publication. My impression is that this manuscript is an old report (based on collections carried out between 1996 and 1998), which is trying to be published now, without any kind of update.

My main criticisms of the manuscript follow below, and minor corrections follow directly in the pdf file:

1. The English language of the manuscript is not suitable for publication. I suggest that the English language must be proofread by a professional translator or a native English speaker. Unfortunately, I'm not a native English speaker, nor a professional translator.
2. Keywords must be presented in some logical order. I suggest the alphabetical order. Furthermore, you repeated some words (e.g., reef fish, southwest Atlantic) in this section (Keywords) that are already in the title. This is not recommended, since it reduces the search power of your paper. I suggest changing these repeated words.
3. Some parts of the text require citations for the information provided.
4. Were the collected specimens deposited in any scientific collection? Are there no vouchers for the specimens? You must provide this.
5. Your specimens' identifications are based on works published more than 30 years ago. This is not acceptable. Many species have been described or redescribed over the years, and the taxonomic classification and species taxonomic status have changed. There are more current identification keys, for example:

Carpenter, K. E. 2002a. The living marine resources of the Western Central Atlantic. Vol. 2: Bony fishes part 1 (Acipenseridae to Grammatidae) FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Special Publication. Nº 5. Rome, FAO. p. 1373.

Carpenter, K. E. 2002b. The living marine resources of the Western Central Atlantic. Vol. 3: Bony fishes part 2 (Opistognathidae to Molidae), sea turtles and marine mammals. FAO Species Identification Guide for Fishery Purposes

and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Special Publication. N° 5. Rome, FAO. p. 2127.

6. You are using a very outdated taxonomic classification. I suggest using the citations below:

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W. N. & Fong, J. D. 2024a ESCHMEYER'S CATALOG OF FISHES: GENERA/SPECIES BY FAMILY/SUBFAMILY. (<http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/SpeciesByFamily.asp>). Electronic version accessed dd mmm 2024.

Fricke, R., Eschmeyer, W. N. & Van der Laan, R. (eds) 2024b. ESCHMEYER'S CATALOG OF FISHES: GENERA, SPECIES, REFERENCES. (<http://researcharchive.calacademy.org/research/ichthyology/catalog/fishcatmain.asp>). Electronic version accessed dd mmm 2024.

7. Your citations for the Biogeographic Distribution Patterns are very out of date. You are using Froese & Pauly (2005). However, this version is very outdated. There is a more current version from February 2024. Please, you should base yourself on the most current version.

Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2024. FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org, version (02/2024).

8. Your results and discussion sections must be according to the corrections made in table 1.