Identification of the Commercially Important Oreosomatid Fish (Zeiformes: Teleostei) of the Emperor Seamounts, with Comments on Diagnostic Characters of the Species

Koichi Hoshino1,6, Kunpei Kosaka2, Kota Sawada3,4, and Masashi Kiyota3,5

1 Fisheries Technology Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, 1551-8 Taira-machi, Nagasaki 851-2213, Japan
2 Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, 4-5-7 Kohnan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8477, Japan
3 National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, 2-12-4 Fukaura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 236-8648, Japan
4 Present Address: Fisheries Resources Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, 2-12-4 Fukaura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 236-8648, Japan
5 Present Address: Graduate School of Fisheries and Environmental Sciences, Nagasaki University, 1-14 Bunkyo-machi, Nagasaki 852-8521, Japan
6 Corresponding author

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An oreosomatid of the genus Allocyttus McCulloch, 1914 is fished commercially on the Emperor Seamounts. However, the species’ identity is uncertain, as is the taxonomy of the oreosomatid species of the sea around Japan, where the names Allocyttus verrucosus Gilchrist, 1906 (type locality: off South Africa) and A. folletti Myers, 1960 (type locality: off California) have both been used. From its anticipated susceptibility to over-exploitation, it is urgent to establish the correct taxonomic identity to facilitate effective management measures. Meristics, morphometrics and scale characters of the specimens from the Emperor Seamounts and Japan agreed well with data of the holotype of A. folletti and differed from those of A. verrucosus, confirming that those specimens represent A. folletti. Oreosomatids reported from the western North Pacific in the literature were identified as A. folletti. From the data of the present study and historical references, A. folletti is thought to be distinguished from A. verrucosus by the following characters: more dorsal- and anal-spines + rays (36–42 vs. 33–38 and 31–35 vs. 27–33 respectively), more total vertebrae (37–41 vs. 34–38), greater numbers of enlarged scales of dorsal- (S-DFB) and anal-fin base (S-AFB) (31–42 vs. 26–31, and 29–37 vs. 25–28 respectively), more spines on the margin of S-DFB and S-AFB (up to 7–12 vs. 3–6), a shorter preanal-fin length (53.8–63.6% vs. 64.8–83.7% of SL), a longer caudal peduncle (10.4–15.6% vs. 6.1–10.2% of SL), a shorter head (32.9–40.4% vs. 38.5–48.4% of SL), and cycloid scales on the mid-side of body (vs. ctenoid). Available data indicate that A. folletti reaches up to 537 mm SL, larger than A. verrucosus (up to ca. 325 mm SL). From the anticipated slow growth and longevity, concern is raised regarding the susceptibility of A. folletti to over-exploitation.

Key Words: Allocyttus folletti, Allocyttus verrucosus, Oreosomatidae, northwestern Pacific.

Introduction

Members of the genus Allocyttus McCulloch, 1914 of the family Oreosomatidae (Zeiformes), commonly known as “oreos,” are deep-sea benthopelagic (Karrer 1986a, b; Heemstra 2016) fishes widely distributed in the waters of sea-mounts and continental slopes of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans (James et al. 1988). The monophyly of the Oreosomatidae is demonstrated by the phylogenetic studies (Tyler et al. 2003; Tyler and Santini 2005; Grande et al. 2018). Within the family, Allocyttus is characterized by having a deep and compressed body, a large eye (but its diameter 52% or less of head length), the first dorsal-fin spine shorter than the second, and the predorsal profile nearly straight without an abrupt rise anterior to the dorsal fin (James et al. 1988). The juveniles are pelagic, and significantly morphologically distinct from the adults in having a swollen abdomen with two rows of cone-like scutes, which are reduced but may remain in adults as patches of enlarged scales between the pectoral and pelvic fins (Kobayashi et al. 1968; Hart 1973; James et al. 1988).

Four species are recognized in the genus Allocyttus verrucosus (Gilchrist, 1906), A. folletti Myers, 1960, A. guineensis Trunov and Kukuev, 1982, and A. niger James, Inada, and Nakamura, 1988. Allocyttus niger is distributed in the South West Atlantic and Southern Indian Oceans, and off Southern Australia and New Zealand (Heemstra 2016). It is easily distinguished from its congeners by the presence of numerous minute spinules on the dorsal- and anal-fin rays, strongly adherent ctenoid scales in adults and strong dorsal- and anal-fin spines (James et al. 1988). Allocyttus guineensis from the southeastern Atlantic coast of Africa from Mauritania to Angola (Heemstra 2016) differs from congeners in the combination of strongly adherent cycloid scales and relatively weak dorsal- and anal-fin spines (Trunov 1982). Although the documented distributions of A. folletti and A. verrucosus have been confused due to incorrect iden-
tifications, the former has been reported from the North Pacific (e.g., Myers 1960; Mecklenburg et al. 2002; present study) while the latter is currently thought to occur in the temperate waters of the North Atlantic and circumglobally in the Southern Hemisphere (e.g., Bray 2015; present study). Myers (1960) noted that *A. folletti* differs from *A. verrucosus* in having somewhat deciduous cycloid scales on the entire mid-lateral side area, lateral line and caudal peduncle, as well as more subtle features [more concave predorsal profile, flatter belly, less smoothly rounded snout, and more prominent and more rugose nasal boss (= bony projection)]. He also noted that none of the three type specimens of *A. folletti* from the coast of California had any trace of abdominal scutes, unlike in *A. verrucosus*.

Many oreo species are commercially important, including the one (Fig. 1A) exploited by boats fishing on the Emperor Seamounts, a volcanic seamount chain extending from the western end of the Hawaiian Ridge (30°N, 175°E) to the Aleutian Trench (53°N, 164°E) in the western North Pacific (Nishida et al. 2016). However, the taxonomic identity of this species has been uncertain, due in part to confusion surrounding the taxonomy of the oreosomatid species known from the seas around Japan. Abe and Hotta (1962) reported and described a single oreosomatid specimen (181 mm SL) captured off Kinkazan, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, and identified it as *Allocyttus verrucosus* rather than *A. folletti*, mainly because the specimen had two rows of scutes between the pectoral fin and preanal contour. Kobayashi et al. (1968) reported an “immature” specimen (268 mm SL) from the north-western Bering Sea and two “young” specimens (both 78 mm SL) from the central northern Pacific, and documented all three as *A. verrucosus*. They considered *A. folletti* a junior synonym of *A. verrucosus*, ascribing the distinguishing characters proposed by Myers (1960) to ontogenetic change or individual variance. Maruyama (1970) described a specimen from off Erimo (Pacific coast of Hokkaido, Japan) as *A. verrucosus*. Kido (1983) described a specimen (292 mm SL, but the picture represents a different specimen of 431 mm SL) from off north-eastern Japan as *A. verrucosus* based on the two rows of scutes between the pectoral and pelvic fins.

In a revision of the oreosomatid fishes from the southern oceans, James et al. (1988) discussed that the records of *A. verrucosus* from the North Pacific (Welander et al. 1957; Abe and Hotta 1962; Kobayashi et al. 1968; Hughes 1981), as well as *A. folletti* in Myers (1960), represent a different taxon or taxa from *A. verrucosus* of the southern oceans (Fig. 1B) noting that "scale structure, scute patterns, and meristic counts ... together with the geographic separation suggest strongly that the northern and southern Pacific forms are not conspecific." However, James et al. (1988) did not adequately demonstrate how *A. verrucosus* and the North Pacific oreosomatid differ, and thus their comments were largely overlooked by subsequent researchers. Thereafter, the name *A. verrucosus* has been applied to the oreosomatid from the western North Pacific by many authors, mainly from Japan (Ida et al. 1992; Nakabo 1993, 2000, 2002; Amaoka et al. 1995, 2011; Inada 1997; Sheiko and Fedorov 2000; Maeda and Tsutsui 2003; Tokranov et al. 2004). One notable exception was Mecklenburg et al. (2002), who recorded the range of *A. folletti* as including the Bering Sea and the Pacific Ocean from central California to Honshu, Japan, and briefly noted that *A. verrucosus* of the South Pacific differed by having fewer fin elements and vertebrae, more cones (= scutes) in the upper abdominal row, and larger spots on the prejuvenile. Nakabo and Kai (2013) applied the name *A. folletti* to the oreosomatid of the western North Pacific, citing the discussion of James et al. (1988) and Mecklenburg et al. (2002),
Materials and Methods

The left-hand side of each specimen was examined except when damaged or in an abnormal condition. Methods of counts and measurements mostly follow James et al. (1988), with some modifications. For standard length (SL), head length (HL), predorsal-fin length (PDFL), and preanal-fin length (PAFL), both the ordinary measurement from the snout tip (abbreviated as SL1, HL1, PDFL1 and PAFL1 respectively), and a modified measurement from the anterior tip of maxillary (SL2, HL2, PDFL2 and PAFL2 respectively), were made. The latter is thought to provide a more accurate basis for comparative proportions because it eliminates the influence of any mouth protrusion, but the former measurements are needed for comparisons with the literature. SL2 and HL2 correspond to Myers’ (1960) “standard length minus premaxillary” and “head length minus premaxillary” respectively. The mouth, if protruding, was retracted to its natural closed position when possible; if not, the specimen was excluded for measurements from the snout tip to preclude any biased values. For body depth (BD), BD1 is the greatest vertical dimension of body at the dorsal-fin origin (as in James et al. 1988), and BD2 is the distance from the dorsal-fin origin to the anal-fin origin (as in Myers 1960). Abdominal edge length (AEL) and thoracic edge length (TEL) follow Myers (1960). P2O-AFO is the length between the pelvic-fin origin and the anal-fin origin [=thoracic edge length of James et al. (1988)]. For caudal-peduncle length (CPL), CPL1 is the distance from the anal-fin insertion to the middle of the caudal-fin base; CPL2 is the distance from the anal-fin insertion to the exposed origin of the first ventral procurent ray (as in Yearsley and Last 1998). Depth of caudal-fin base is the depth of the caudal-fin base between the exposed origins of the first procurent rays of the upper and lower lobes. Lachrymal width (LW) is the minimum dorsoventral dimension of part of lachrymal below eye (posterior to the articulation with the lateral ethmoid) (Ward et al. 1996; G. K. Yearsley, pers. comm.). S-DFB and S-AFR are the serial enlarged scales at the dorsal- and anal-fin bases respectively. Vertebræ were examined by radiography. The vertebrae, S-DFB and the spines on S-DFB and S-AFB of the holotype of _A. folletti_ (CAS-SU 15377) were counted from the digital images downloaded from “Ichthyology Primary Types Imagebase” of California Academy of Sciences (https://www.calacademy.org/scientists/ichthyology-primary-types-imagebase). Institutional acronyms follow Fricke and Eschmeyer (2019).

Comparative material examined. _Allocyttus folletti_. 2 specimens, Japan. NSMT-P 30689 (n = 1), 194.7 mm SL, Suruga Bay, Shizuoka Prefecture, 34°50’N, 138°35’E, July–August 1969; HUMZ 72625 (n = 1), 287.1 mm SL, off Fukushima Prefecture, 37°30.0’N, 142°19.5’E, 815–860 m deep, 24 January 1978, trawl. _Allocyttus verrucosus_. 7 specimens. NSMT-P 41168 (n = 1), 187.2 mm SL, New Zealand, date unknown, R/V Shinkai-maru; NSMT-P 112857 (n = 1), 201.5 mm SL, West coast of Australia, date unknown, R/V Kiyoyo-maru; NSMT-P 112858, 110.2 mm SL, West coast of Australia, date unknown, R/V Kiyoyo-maru; NSMT-P 113107 (n = 1), 238.4 mm SL, West coast of Australia, 31°39.3’S, 114°44.0’E, 1035 m deep, 15 November 1975, R/V Kiyoyo-maru. BSU 48476–48478 (n = 3), 121.4–151.3 mm SL, off South Africa, 34°26.6’S, 26°00.8’E, 750 m, 3 June 1990, bottom trawl.

Results

Allocyttus folletti Myers, 1960
(Figs 1A, C, E, 2A, C, 3)

_allocyttus verrucosus_ (non Gilchrist, 1906): Welander et al. 1957: 245–246 (description; off North Pacific); Abe and Hotta 1962: 152–156, figs 1–8 (description; off Kinkazan, Japan); Kobayashi et al. 1968: 1–5, pl. I (description; western Bering Sea and western North Pacific); Maruyama 1970: 52–54, fig. 9 (description; off Erimo, Japan); Maruyama 1971: 33, fig. 36 (list; off Erimo, Japan); Kido 1983: 126–127, 203, fig. (description; Japan); Machida 1984: 118, pl. 103-A (description; Japan); Ida et al. 1992: 86, fig. (description; off Iwate Pref., Japan); Nakabo 1993:
Table 1. Meristics of *Allocyttus folletti* and *A. verrucosus*.

| Characters | Emperor Seamounts | *A. folletti* | *A. verrucosus* | Examined specimens |
|------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|            | N=21              | N=2           | N=3             | N=7              | N=1?              |
| DS         | 6–7               | 6             | 7 (5–7)         | 6                | 6                 |
| DR         | 30–33             | 32            | 32 (30–33)      | 28–30            | 31                |
| DS+DR      | 37–40             | 38            | 39 (37–39)      | 34–36            | 37                |
| AS         | 2–4               | 2–3           | 3 (3)           | 2–3              | 3                 |
| AR         | 29–32             | 30–31         | 31 (31–32)      | 27–29            | 29                |
| AS+AR      | 32–35             | 32–34         | 34 (34–35)      | 29–31            | 32                |
| PIR        | 19–21             | 19–21         | 21 (19–21)      | 17–20            | —                 |
| P2S        | 1                 | 1             | 1 (1)           | 1                | —                 |
| P2R        | 6                 | 6             | 6 (6)           | 6                | —                 |
| LLS        | 82–93             | 88–90         | 95 (85–95)      | 82–92            | 95                |
| UGR        | 3–6               | 4–6           | 6 (6–7)         | 3–6              | —                 |
| LGR        | 16–22             | 19–20         | 19 (19–25)      | 18–19            | —                 |
| TGR        | 20–27             | 23–26         | 25 (25–32)      | 21–24            | —                 |
| AV         | 12–13             | 12–13         | 12              | 12–13            | —                 |
| CV         | 24–27             | 27–28         | 28              | 23–25            | —                 |
| TV         | 37–40             | 40            | 40              | 35–37            | —                 |
| S-DFB      | 31–42             | 32–33         | 33              | 26–31            | —                 |
| S-AFB      | 29–37             | 29–31         | 29              | 25–28            | —                 |

Abbreviations: AR, anal-fin rays; AS, anal-fin spines; AV, abdominal vertebrae; CV, caudal vertebrae; DR, dorsal-fin rays; DS, dorsal-fin spines; LGR, gill rakers of lower limb; LLS, lateral-line scales; PIR, pectoral-fin rays; P2R, pelvic-fin rays; P2S, pelvic-fin spine; S-DFB, enlarged scales of anal-fin base; S-AFB, enlarged scales of dorsal-fin base; TGR, total gill rakers; TV, total vertebrae; UGR, gill rakers of upper limb. ¹ Data of the holotype, followed by the range of holotype + two paratypes in parentheses. Digits in italics were counted from the digital images of the holotype (CAS-SV 15377).
tending posteriorly nearly to below middle of eye when mouth closed. Opercular bones with radiated bony striations, scaleless, except opercle sparsely scaled. Numerous spinules on all exposed bones on head. Nasal projected anteriorly above anterior nostril, with enlarged spinules (more prominent in larger specimens). Nostrils close together: anterior one circular, oriented anteriorly; posterior one vertically elongate, oriented laterally, immediately anterior to eye. Nasal projected forward above posterior nostril (Fig. 1E). Lower surface of dentary with numerous spinules and longitudinal striations. Teeth on both jaws minute, conical, slightly curved inward, in irregular 1–3 rows. Vomerine teeth similar to jaw teeth in shape, size and arrangement. Palatine teeth absent.

Dorsal-, anal-, and pelvic-fin spines robust, densely striated; first dorsal-fin spine about one-third of second spine in length. First anal-fin spine longer than second and third spines. All dorsal-, anal- and pectoral-fin soft rays simple, densely segmented. Spinous and soft-ray portions of anal fin continuous, with low membrane. Pectoral fin small, round-ed, posterior margin falling slightly short of vertical through anal-fin origin. Pelvic fin reaching or extending slightly beyond anus when depressed, its spine reaching or falling slightly short of anus. Caudal fin rounded.

Lateral line gently arched, nearly parallel to dorsal contour in anterior two-thirds, posterior third straight. Scales mostly cycloid and deciduous mid-laterally (Fig. 2A), and on caudal peduncle, basal part of caudal fin and lateral line; thickened cycloid or ctenoid with a few spinules on lower side of thorax and abdomen; those on ventral midline of abdomen especially thickened and enlarged in large specimens; row of enlarged scales along base of dorsal and anal fins (S-DFB and S-AFB respectively) forming sheath of scales, with up to 7–12 (margin) and 1–3 (center) elevated spinules per scale (Fig. 2C). Single row of smaller scales with 1–3 spinules along medial side of S-DFB and S-AFB. Two nearly horizontal rows of scutes (assemblage of somewhat enlarged scales) on abdomen between pectoral and pel-

| Characters | Emperor Seamounts | A. folletti | A. verrucosus |
|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| SNL (mm)   | 269.3–537         | 287.1      | 347 (162–347) |
| HL1        | 34.6–39.3         | 34.6       | 36.3 (36.3–42.0) |
| PDFL1      | 50.2–57.6         | 53.5       | 51.0 (51.0–58.0) |
| PAFL1      | 53.8–62.4         | 55.5       | 62.8 (62.8–63.6) |
| BD1        | 50.4–55.9         | 53.3       | 51.3 (—)      |
| BD2        | 51.5–57.5         | 53.7       | 53.3 (53.3–58.6) |
| DFBL       | 42.8–50.9         | 47.7       | 49.3 (46.0–49.3) |
| AFBL       | 38.8–43.1         | 43.8       | 40.1 (37.8–42.0) |
| HW         | 18.7–22.3         | 19.8       | 19.8–23.3     |
| UJL        | 14.0–17.0         | 15.2       | 15.9 (15.4–17.9) |
| LJL        | 19.8–22.7         | 21.5       | 19.6 (19.6–23.5) |
| ED         | 12.5–18.4         | 16.3       | 14.2 (—)      |
| SNL        | 8.5–15.6          | 9.6        | 10.1 (10.1–12.4) |
| LW         | 1.7–2.5           | 2.1        | 2.0           |
| P1L        | 14.5–17.6         | 15.3       | 16.4 (15.4–19.1) |
| P2L        | 14.2–19.3         | 17.1       | 19.0–24.4     |
| D2S1L      | 8.4–11.0          | 10.2       | 8.2 (8.2–11.7) |
| DRL        | 11.6–14.7         | 13.0       | 11.8 (10.8–13.6) |
| AS1L       | 5.2–7.6           | —         | 5.9–6.9       |
| ARL        | 13.9–15.5         | 14.0       | 13.3 (12.7–16.1) |
| P2S1L      | 12.9–16.0         | 15.2       | 13.0 (13.0–22.2) |
| TEL        | 14.6–18.5         | 16.6       | 17.3 (17.3–18.5) |
| AEL        | 14.6–20.2         | 18.2       | 18.4 (18.4–19.7) |
| PZ2-AFO    | 17.7–23.1         | 20.5       | 23.9–29.6     |
| CPL1       | 11.2–14.8         | 14.6       | 13.5 (—)      |
| CPL2       | 10.4–13.0         | 13.8       | 6.1–8.9       |
| CPD        | 5.0–6.7           | 6.3        | 5.8 (5.8–6.2) |

Abbreviations: AEL, abdominal edge length; AFBL, anal-fin base length; ARL, anal-fin ray length; AS1L, 1st anal-fin spine length; BD1, body depth 1; BD2, body depth 2; CPD, caudal-peduncle depth; CPL1, caudal peduncle length 1; CPL2, caudal-peduncle length 2; DFBL, dorsal-fin base length; DRL, longest dorsal-fin ray length; D2S1L, 2nd dorsal-fin spine length; ED, eye diameter; HL1, head length 1; HW, head width; LJL, lower-jaw length; LW, lachrymal width; P1L, pectoral-fin length; P2L, pelvic-fin length; P2SL, pelvic-fin spine length; PAFL1, pre-anal fin length 1; PDFL1, pre-dorsal fin length 1; PZ2-AFO, length from pelvic-fin origin to anal-fin origin; SNL, snout length; TEL, thoracic edge length. For methods of measurement, refer to text. 1 Data of holotype, and range of holotype + two paratypes in parentheses. Digits in italics indicate measurement from figure of original description.
vic fins; in upper row enlarged scales forming 1–5 patches, weak or dislodged in some specimens; in lower row, enlarged scales forming continuous row (Fig. 3A). Body uniformly dark brown or grayish brown, fins darker; cheek and opercles blueish.

**Distribution.** Emperor Seamounts (Mundy 2005; present study), Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean east to Central California and west to Japan (from Hokkaido to Ibaraki Prefecture) (Mecklenburg et al. 2002; Nakabo and Kai 2013).

**Discussion**

**Identification.** Four genera are recognized in the family Oreosomatidae (James et al. 1988; Yearsley and Last 1998): *Pseudocyttus* Gilchrist, 1906, *Oreosoma* Cuvier, 1829, *Neocyttus* Gilchrist, 1906, and *Allocyttus* McCulloch, 1914. The present specimens are identified as *Allocyttus*, being distinguished from the other genera by the following combination of characters (see James et al. 1988): from *Pseudocyttus* by having the first dorsal-fin spine shorter than the second (vs. longer in *Pseudocyttus*), and six pelvic-fin soft rays (vs. five); from *Oreosoma* by having radiating striations and lacking a horizontal ridge on the opercle (vs. lacking radiating striations and having a prominent horizontal ridge), and relatively small eye diameter (39–46% vs. 52–60% of HL1); and from *Neocyttus* by having a nearly straight or slightly convex predorsal profile (vs. strongly concave and sharply risen).

Within the genus *Allocyttus*, the present specimens can be easily distinguished from *A. niger* (see James et al. 1988), in lacking spinules on the dorsal and anal-fin rays (vs. spinules present), fewer total gill rakers (26–33 vs. 26–33), and fewer lateral-line scales (82–93 vs. 91–102). From *A. guineensis* (see Trunov 1982; Heemstra 2016), the present specimens differ in having more anal-fin rays (26–27 vs. 26–27), a shorter head length (HL1: 34.6–39.3% vs. ca. 40–45% of SL1), a longer 2nd dorsal-fin spine (8.4–11.0% vs. 4.6–5.7% of SL1) and a longer 1st anal-fin spine (5.2–7.6% vs. 1.7–4.4% of SL1).

Comparisons of the present specimens with the holotype

| Characters | Emperor Seamounts | Japan | Myers (1960) | Examined specimens | Gilchrist (1906) |
|------------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| SL2 (mm)   | 264.7–526         | 187.4–286.1 | 341 (160–341) | 107.4–232.8       | ?                |
| HL2        | 32.8–37.1         | 33.8–38.0  | 35.8 (35.8–41.3) | 38.8–40.8         | 39.0             |
| PDFL2      | 49.1–57.2         | 51.3–53.7  | 50.1         | 51.2–60.9         | 57.4             |
| PAFL2      | 55.5–64.5         | 56.7–69.1  | 62.8         | 68.5–80.5         | 66.1             |
| BD1        | 51.2–56.6         | 53.4–56.1  | 51.8         | 59.5–69.4         | 66.1             |
| BD2        | 52.3–58.7         | 53.9–56.6  | 54.3 (54.3–59.4) | 59.2–66.4         | 67.2             |
| DFBL       | 44.4–51.0         | 44.8–47.9  | 50.2 (47.2–50.2) | 45.1–49.3         | 50.2             |
| AFBL       | 39.4–43.7         | 39.2–43.9  | 40.8 (38.9–42.5) | 37.7–41.7         | 42.6             |
| HW         | 19.3–22.6         | 19.9–21.7  | —           | 20.3–23.6         | —                |
| UJL        | 14.3–17.0         | 15.2      | 16.1 (15.9–18.1) | 15.1–19.4         | 18.9             |
| LJL        | 20.2–22.7         | 21.6      | 19.9 (19.9–23.8) | 22.7–25.5         | 24.2             |
| ED         | 12.7–18.7         | 16.4–18.4  | 14.5 (—)    | 15.4–19.2         | 19.0             |
| SNL        | 8.6–14.2          | 9.6       | 10.3 (10.3–12.5) | 10.4–13.9         | 13.5             |
| LW         | 1.7–2.5           | 1.8–2.1   | 2.1         | 2.5–3.7           | 4.3              |
| P1L        | 14.5–17.8         | 15.3–15.4  | 16.7 (15.9–19.4) | 16.5–20.6         | 19.0             |
| P2L        | 14.5–19.5         | 17.1–19.7  | —           | 19.4–24.6         | 19.7             |
| DS2L       | 8.5–11.1          | 10.2–10.8  | 8.4 (8.4–11.9) | 7.6–11.9          | 8.2              |
| DRL        | 11.8–15.0         | 13.1–14.7  | 12.0 (11.1–13.8) | 15.0–18.0         | 18.8             |
| ASL        | 5.3–7.7           | 6.9       | —           | 6.1–7.1           | 6.6              |
| ARL        | 14.0–15.7         | 14.1–16.8  | 13.5 (13.1–16.3) | 15.9–18.7         | 19.1             |
| P2SL       | 11.4–16.3         | 15.3–16.7  | 13.2 (13.2–22.5) | 11.3–16.9         | —                |
| TEL        | 15.2–18.7         | 16.6–18.0  | 17.6 (17.6–19.1) | 21.1–25.1         | —                |
| AEL        | 14.7–20.4         | 18.2–18.7  | 18.8 (18.8–20.2) | 20.9–26.7         | —                |
| P2O-AFO    | 18.0–23.4         | 20.6–21.3  | —           | 23.7–30.3         | —                |
| CPL1       | 11.3–15.1         | 12.4–14.7  | 13.5        | 7.9–10.6          | 12.3             |
| CPL2       | 10.5–13.2         | 11.2–13.9  | —           | 6.3–9.3           | —                |
| CPD        | 5.0–6.8           | 5.7–6.3   | 5.9 (5.9–6.3) | 6.1–7.0           | 7.2              |

Abbreviations: AEL, abdominal edge length; AFBL, anal-fin base length; ARL, longest anal-fin ray length; AS1L, 1st anal-fin spine length; BD1, body depth 1; BD2, body depth 2; CPD, caudal-peduncle depth; CPL1, caudal peduncle length 1; CPL2, caudal peduncle length 2; DFBL, dorsal-fin base length; DRL, longest dorsal-fin ray length; DS2L, 2nd dorsal-fin spine length; ED, eye diameter; HL2, head length 2; HW, head width; LJL, lower-jaw length; LW, lachrymal width; P1L, pectoral-fin length; P2L, pelvic-fin length; P2SL, pelvic-fin spine length; PAFL2, pre-anal fin length 2; PDFL2, pre-dorsal fin length 2; P2O-AFO, length from pelvic-fin origin to anal-fin origin; SNL, snout length; TEL, thoracic edge length. For methods of measurements, refer to text. 1 Data of holotype, and range of holotype + two paratypes in parentheses. Digits in italics indicating measurements from figures of original description.
Oreosomatid fish of Emperor Seamounts

of *A. folletti* and with *A. verrucosus* [comparative specimens, and one of the syntypes based on the illustration in Gilchrist (1906)] are presented in Tables 1–3. The ranges for most of the characters in the present specimens include the value for the holotype of *A. folletti*. However, there are many characters that disagree with the characters in *A. verrucosus*, including with respect to meristics (Table 1), more dorsal- and anal-fins spines + rays (37–40 vs. 34–37 and 32–35 vs. 29–32 respectively), more total vertebrae (37–40 vs. 35–37) and more S-DFB (31–42 vs. 26–31) and S-AFB (29–37 vs. 25–28). With respect to morphometrics (Tables 2, 3), the present specimens disagreed with *A. verrucosus* in having a smaller head (HL1: 34.6–39.3% vs. 40.2–43.1% of SL1; HL2: 32.8–38.0% vs. 38.8–40.8% of SL2), a shorter preanal-fin length (PAFL1: 53.8–62.4% vs. 64.5–82.0% of SL1; PAFL2: 55.5–69.1% vs. 68.5–80.5% of SL2), a shallower BD1 (50.4–55.9% vs. 56.9–68.7% of SL1; 51.2–56.6% vs. 59.5–69.4% of SL2), a narrower LW (1.7–2.5% vs. 2.5–4.2% of SL1; 1.7–2.5% vs. 2.5–4.3% of SL2), a longer CPL1 (11.2–14.8% vs. 7.7–11.9% of SL1; 11.3–15.1% vs. 7.9–12.3% of SL2) and CPL2 (10.4–13.8% vs. 6.1–8.9% of SL1; 10.5–13.9% vs. 6.3–9.6% of SL2), a shorter DRL (11.6–14.7% vs. 14.6–18.2% of SL1; 11.8–15.0% vs. 15.0–18.8% of SL2), a shorter TEL (14.6–18.5% vs. 20.6–24.9% of SL1; 15.2–18.7% vs. 21.1–25.1% of SL2), a shorter AEL (14.6–20.2% vs. 20.1–26.0% of SL1; 14.7–20.4% vs. 20.9–26.7% of SL2) and a shorter P2O-AFO (17.7–23.1% vs. 23.9–29.6% of SL1; 18.0–23.4% vs. 23.7–30.3% of SL2). In addition, the caudal peduncle was deeper posteriorly (Fig. 1C, D) and CFD was 140–188% of CPD in the examined specimens, agreeing with the holotype of *A. folletti* (180%) and greater than in *A. verrucosus* (111–127% in comparative specimens).

The scales of the entire mid-lateral area, lateral line, and caudal peduncle of the examined specimens are cycloid, agreeing with the holotype of *A. folletti* (see Myers 1960), and differing from the ctenoid scales in *A. verrucosus* (James et al. 1988; present study) (Fig. 2A, B). In *A. folletti*, the maximum number of spines of S-DFB and S-AFB is 7–12...
(margin)+1–3 (center) (Fig. 2C), whereas in A. verrucosus it is 3–6 (margin)+1–2 (center) (Fig. 2D). James et al. (1988) described A. verrucosus as having a "row of ctenoid scales along bases of dorsal and anal fin with up to 6 spines per scale" and this agrees with our observations in A. verrucosus. These data demonstrate that the examined specimens from the Emperor Seamounts and Japan represent A. folletti, not A. verrucosus.

The two rows of abdominal scutes (serial enlarged scales), thought to be one of the diagnostic characters of A. verrucosus (Myers 1960; Abe and Hotta 1962; Kido 1983), were observed in the examined specimens (Fig. 3A), although their degree of development was variable. In addition, the original picture of the A. folletti holotype (Myers 1960: fig. 1) shows a small patch of somewhat enlarged scales on the mid-lateral abdomen between the pectoral and pelvic fins, and another patch above the pelvic fin (Fig. 3B). Based on their shape and position, these scale patches are akin to the scutes typical of A. verrucosus. Accordingly, the presence or absence of scutes is not a valid character to distinguish A. verrucosus from A. folletti. Mecklenburg et al. (2002) noted that the rows of scutes were reduced or lost in adults, but all the specimens examined here retained their scutes (although some were dislodged) even in the largest specimen (537 mm SL). The degree of scute reduction in adults appears to be variable between individuals.

The characters of specimens reported as A. verrucosus from Japan and adjacent waters are presented in Table 4. They agree well with A. folletti but not with A. verrucosus (see also Tables 1, 2). Recently, Amaoka et al. (2020) published pictures of an adult and a juvenile oreosomatid (supposedly from Hokkaido, Japan) identified as A. folletti. In the adult specimen, the mouth is strongly projected, negating the value of any measurements from the snout tip (e.g., SL1) and thus it is not listed in Table 4. However, from the measurement of the picture of the adult specimen, the percentage in SL2 of BD1 (53.0%), BD2 (53.5%) and CPL2 (11.0%) agree with A. folletti but not A. verrucosus (see
Table 4. Characters of oreosomatid reported from the western North Pacific as Allocyttus verrucosus in this study. but reidentified as A. folletti.

| SMS | Morphometrics (% of SL1) | Locality |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|
| DFS | dorsal-fin spines+rays | Bering Sea/N Pacific |
| DFR | dorsal-fin rays | Bering Sea/N Pacific |
| AFS | anal-fin spines | off NE of Japan |
| AEL | abdominal edge length | off NE of Japan |
| TEL | thoracis edge length | off NE of Japan |
| TV | total vertebrae | off NE of Japan |
| CPL1 | caudal-peduncle length 1 | off NE of Japan |
| CPL2 | caudal-peduncle length 2 | off NE of Japan |
| S-DFB | enlarged scales of dorsal-fin base | off NE of Japan |
| S-AFB | enlarged scales of anal-fin base | off NE of Japan |

Abbreviations: AEL, abdominal edge length; AFR, anal-fin rays; AFS, anal-fin spines; BD1, body depth 1; CPL1, caudal-peduncle length 1; CPL2, caudal-peduncle length 2; CY, cycloid; DFR, dorsal-fin rays; DFS, dorsal-fin spines; HL1, head length 1; PAFL1, preanal-fin length 1; S-AFB, enlarged scales of anal-fin base; S-DFB, enlarged scales of dorsal-fin base; SMS, scale on middle side of body; TEL, thoracis edge length; TV, total vertebrae. For methods of measurements, refer to text. Digits in italics indicate measurements from pictures in references. 1 Morphometrics of juveniles excluded. 2 Reported as 29 for S-DFB and 32–33 for S-AFB but considered incorrect (discussed in text).

Table 3. HL2 is 39.2% of SL2 (beyond the range of A. folletti) but this variation is probably due to damage of the opercular elements, viz., it appears the subopercle and interopercle are lost and the opercle is rotated backward from its original position. We therefore consider these individuals to represent A. folletti, not A. verrucosus.

We conclude that the oreosomatid of the western North Pacific Ocean is A. folletti, supporting the arguments of James et al. (1988), Mecklenburg et al. (2002) and Nakabo and Kai (2013).

**Distinction of A. folletti from A. verrucosus.** Characters seemingly useful for distinguishing A. folletti and A. verrucosus in Tables 1–3 are compared with literature data (Table 5) to test their validity. In the meristic characters, dorsal-fin rays + rays (36–42 vs. 33–38), anal-fin rays (31–35 vs. 27–33), and total vertebrae (37–41 vs. 34–38) are useful, although the ranges of the two species overlap. S-DB (31–42 vs. 26–31) and S-AFB (29–37 vs. 25–28) are likely to be useful, although the available data from references are limited. Kobayashi et al. (1968) reported that based on three specimens the number of "rough scales along to dorsal base" (=S-DFB) was 29, and the number of "rough scales along to anal base" (=S-AFB) as 32–33. However, the correct counts of S-DFB and S-AFB are likely to be 32–33 and 29 respectively, because the number of S-DFB is greater than the number of S-AFB in most (21 of 23) of the specimens examined here: it is not likely that S-DFB was fewer than S-AFB in all of the three specimens of Kobayashi et al. (1968). Unfortunately, the picture of the specimen in Kobayashi et al. (1968: pl. 1a) is not clear enough to count the number of S-DFB and S-AFB correctly, although the rough counts based on an enlarged copy (200%) of the picture were ca. 33 and ca. 30 respectively. Ward et al. (1996) raised the number of pectoral-fin rays as a character to distinguish A. folletti and A. verrucosus (19–21 vs. 17–19 respectively). However, the data of the present study (Table 1) and those of the references in Table 5 revealed the wider overlapping range (19–21 vs. 17–21 respectively).

In the morphometric characters as % of SL1 (Table 5; data of juveniles are neglected), shorter PAFI (53.8–63.6% vs. 64.8–83.7%) and longer CPL2 (10.4–15.6% vs. 6.1–10.2%) seem especially useful because the two species were clearly separated by these characters. HL1 (32.9–40.4% vs. 38.5–48.4%), TEL (14.6–18.5% vs. 17.8–28.0%), AEL (14.6–20.2% vs. 20.1–26.0%) and CPL1 (11.2–14.8% vs. 7.7–11.8%) seem useful although the ranges of the two species overlap. The range of BD1 in A. verrucosus (46.0–77.9%) includes the whole range in A. folletti (50.3–55.9%). However, the data of A. verrucosus in James et al. (1988) from the specimens of South Africa (46.0–73.3%) and Australia (53.5–77.9%) include exceptionally low values (46.0% and 53.3%), which might be mistakes or abnormalities. If these values are excluded, available data of this character in A. verrucosus is 56.5–77.9%, clearly separable from A. folletti (50.3–55.9%). The significance of the last character needs further verification.

The caudal peduncle in Allocyttus folletti is deeper posteriorly compared to that of A. verrucosus (Fig. 1C, D); when the depth of caudal-fin base (CDF) is expressed as a per-
Table 5. Meristics and morphometrics thought to be useful to distinguish Alloctytus folletti and A. verrucosus.

| Species       | Sources | N  | DFS+DFR | AFS+AFR | TV  | S-DFB | S-AFB | Meristics (N of SFL: snout tip–middle of caudal-fin base) | Morphometrics (% of SL1: snout tip–middle of caudal-fin base) | Locality                   |
|---------------|---------|----|---------|---------|-----|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. folletti   | Present study | 23 | 37–40   | 32–35   | 37–40 | 31–42 | 29–37 | 34–36–39 50.4–55.9 53.8–62.4 11.2–14.8 10.4–13.8 14.6–18.2 14.6–20.2 | 32.9–40.4 50.3–53.2 55.6–62.0 11.7–14.8 12.1 16.0–17.5 18.0 | Emperor Seamounts & Japan |
|               | seven references\(^1\),\(^2\) | 9  | 39–42   | 33–35   | 39–41 | 32–35 | 29–30 | 36.3–38.2 62.9–63.6 12.6 | 17.3–18.5 18.4–19.7 | Western N Pacific            |
|               | Welander (1957) | 1  | 40      | 35      | —     | —     | —     | 40.4 50.3–53.2 55.6–62.0 11.7–14.8 12.1 16.0–17.5 18.0 | — | N Pacific                                           |
|               | Myers (1960)\(^2\) | 3  | 37–39   | 34–35   | —     | —     | —     | 36.3–38.2 62.9–63.6 12.6 | 17.3–18.5 18.4–19.7 | off California                |
|               | Miller and Lea (1972) | ? | 36–40   | —       | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
|               | Hart (1973)\(^2\) | 1  | 40      | 35      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
|               | Anderson et al. (1979) | 2  | 39      | 34      | 39    | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
|               | Gillespie and Saunders (1994) | 1  | 40      | 34      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
|               | Ward et al. (1996) | 8  | 38–39   | 31–34   | 39    | —     | —     | 35.0 54.8 58.4 | 14.6 15.6 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
|               | Mecklenburg et al. (2002) | ? | —      | 33–35   | 39–41 | 31    | 33    | 39.6 53.8 | 62.3 | 11.7 | 10.4 | — | U.S. West Coast |
| Kamikawa (2017) | 1  | —      | —      | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Integrated range |       | 36–42 | 31–35 | 37–41 | 31–42 | 29–37 | 32.9–40.4 50.3–55.9 53.8–63.6 11.2–14.8 10.4–15.6 14.6–18.5 14.6–20.2 | 38.5–48.4 53.5–77.9 66.0–82.2 | New Zealand/South Africa |
| A. verrucosus | Present study | 7  | 34–36   | 29–31   | 35–37 | 26–31 | 25–28 | 40.2–43.1 56.9–68.7 66.5–82.0 7.7–10.2 6.1–8.9 20.6–24.9 20.1–26.0 | 39.4–45.8 56.5–75.7 68.7–83.7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Gilihr (1906) | 1  | 37      | 32      | —      | —     | —     | —     | 41.1 63.0 | 64.8 | 11.8 | — | — | South Africa |
| McCulloch (1914) | 8  | 36–38   | —       | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Trunov (1982) | 5  | —       | —       | —      | —     | —     | —     | 57.5–63.0 65.3–71.5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Shimizu (1983) | 2  | —      | 29–30   | —      | —     | —     | —     | 40.6 65.4 76.5 | 8.9 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Karrer (1986b) | ? | —       | —       | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| James et al. (1988) | 144 | 33–37   | 27–33   | 34–37 | —     | —     | —     | 39.8–46.7 46.0–73.3 65.3–79.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| (New Zealand) | (51) | 39.4–45.8 56.5–75.7 68.7–83.7 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| (Australia) | (44) | 38.5–48.4 53.5–77.9 66.0–82.2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| (South Africa) | (49) | 39.8–46.7 46.0–73.3 65.3–79.0 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| James and Inada (1990) | 59 | 34–37   | 28–32   | —      | —     | —     | —     | 41.3 61.1 72.9 | 8.6 | 8.5 | — | — | New Zealand |
| Du Ruit and Queiro (1993) | 1  | 37      | 31      | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ward et al. (1996) | 9  | 35–37   | 29–31   | 36–38   | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Bray (2008) | ? | —       | —       | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Morris et al. (2011) | 1  | 32      | —       | —      | —     | —     | —     | — | — | — | — | — | Labrador Sea, Canada |
| Kloppmann and Thiel (2013)\(^3\) | 16 | 35–38   | 29–33   | 36–38   | —     | —     | —     | 40.0 — 67.3 | 10.2 | 20.4 | 20.4 | — | Greenland/SW Indian Ocean |
| Bray (2015) | ? | —       | —       | 34–37   | —     | —     | —     | 38.9 56.6 70.2 | 8.5 | — | — | — | — | New Zealand |
| Hermo (2016) | ? | —       | —       | 34–37   | —     | —     | —     | 37.5–45 59.7–71 — | — | — | — | — | — | Eastern Central Atlantic |

Integrated range | 33–38 | 27–33 | 34–38 | 26–31 | 25–28 | 38.5–48.4 46.0–77.9 64.8–83.7 7.7–11.8 6.1–10.2 17.8–28.0 20.1–26.0

Abbreviations: AEL, abdominal edge length; AFR, anal-fin rays; AFS, anal-fin spines; BD1, body depth 1; CPL1, caudal peduncle length 1; CPL2, caudal peduncle length 2; DFR, dorsal-fin rays; DFS, dorsal-fin spines; HL1, head length 1; PAFL1, preanal-fin length 1; S-AFB, enlarged scales of anal-fin base; S-DFB, enlarged scales of dorsal-fin base; SL1, standard length 1; TEL, thoracic edge length; TV, total vertebrae. For methods of measurements, refer to text. Digits in italics indicate measurements from pictures in references. \(^1\) Integrated data from Abe and Hotta (1962), Kobayashi et al. (1968), Maruyama (1970), Kido (1983), Iida et al. (1992), Amaoka et al. (1995) and Kitagawa et al. (2008) (see Table 4). \(^2\) Morphometrics of juveniles excluded.
percentage of caudal-peduncle depth (140–188% vs. 111–127% in the examined specimens) it seems a useful character. This can be seen in the figures in the references (cited in Tables 4, 5) although accurate measurement based on these figures is difficult in many cases.

Ward et al. (1996) pointed out that *A. folletti* has a narrower lachrymal width (LW) than in *A. verrucosus* (1.7–2.4% vs. 3.3–4.0% of SL respectively). In our observation, this character clearly separated the two species (Tables 2, 3), supporting the validity of this character. But note that SL of Ward et al. (1996) was measured from between lachrymal tips anteriorly, and thus cannot be directly compared with our study. Ward et al. (1996) pointed out that *A. folletti* has longer fin spines (e.g., 2nd dorsal-fin spine: 7.6–12.6% vs. 5.4–9.1% of SL), but from the wide range of overlapping, it is often difficult to identify the specimens by this character alone (see also Tables 2, 3).

Scales of mid-side (SMS) are cycloid in *A. folletti* and ctenoid in *A. verrucosus* (Fig. 2A, B) making this a useful character to separate the two species. Furthermore, the numbers of spines on the margin of S-DFB and S-AFB (up to 7–12 vs. up to 3–6) differ between the two species based on the examined specimens. The data in the holotype of *A. folletti* (up to nine) and *A. verrucosus* in James et al. (1988) (up to six) agree with our observations.

The adherence of the scales was thought to be a character to separate the two species. Abe and Hotta (1962) identified their specimen of oreosomatid from Japan as *A. verrucosus* and not *A. folletti* partly because of the “tenacious” (= adherent) scales, in addition to the scutes. Direct comparisons of the two species revealed that the mid-side scales are, overall, preserved better in *A. verrucosus*, and those scales were more easily removed by tweezers in *A. folletti*. However, Abe and Hotta (1962) apparently judged the scale condition as “tenacious” without comparison with the “real” *A. verrucosus*. In the specimen of Abe and Hotta (1962: figs 1, 3) the scales look well preserved; this may have led to these authors describing the scales as “tenacious” and mis-identifying the specimen as *A. verrucosus*.

Myers (1960: 93) listed the following “subtle features” to distinguish *A. folletti* from *A. verrucosus*: (1) more concave predorsal profile, (2) flatter belly, (3) snout less smoothly rounded down, and (4) more prominent and rugose nasal boss (= bony projection). Regarding the predorsal profile (1), however, in *A. folletti* it was usually (in 18 of 23 specimens examined) slightly convex between the dorsal-fin origin and the vertical through the posterior end of the gill opening (Figs 1A, 3). In *A. verrucosus*, the corresponding part was slightly concave (Fig. 1B) in six of seven comparative specimens. The same conditions can be observed in various photos and illustrations of *A. folletti* [e.g., Myers 1960 (holotype: Fig. 3); Abe and Hotta 1962; Kobayashi et al. 1968; Machida 1984; Mecklenburg et al. 2002; Amaoka et al. 2020], and those of *A. verrucosus* (e.g., Gilchrist 1906; McCulloch 1914; Shimizu 1983; James et al. 1988; James and Inada 1990; Bray 2008, 2015; Kloppmann and Thiel 2013). However, the relevant part of the predorsal contour was straight in some specimens of both species, and thus this character is not always useful to distinguish the two species. Regarding the shapes of the belly (2) and snout (3), we did not recognize any significant differences between the two species. The nasal boss (4) was more strongly projected (Fig. 1E, F) and armed with larger spines in *A. folletti* (except the smallest specimen examined: NSMT-P 30689, 190.7 mm SL), as described by Myers (1960).

**Note on distribution.** In the Emperor Seamounts, *Alloctytus folletti* was previously reported from Koko Seamount (35°30′N, 171°30′E) and northward to Suiko Seamount (44°34′N, 170°24′E) (see Mundy 2005). The present study extends the range southward from Koko Seamount to Hancock Seamounts. The latter comprises two seamounts, Southeast Hancock (29°48′N, 178°05′E) and Northwest Hancock (30°17′N, 178°44′E) (Boehlert 1988). The specimen we examined (FAKU 119906) was collected from Hancock Seamounts but its exact locality is unknown.

**Biological features and management suggestions.** The largest specimen examined in the present study was 537 mm SL (630 mm in total length = TL) considerably larger than the largest specimen of *A. verrucosus* in the review of James et al. (1988), 265 mm SL (320 mm TL). The maximum size of *A. verrucosus* reported by Lyle and Smith (1997) in an abundance and biological survey of oreos in south-eastern Australia was ca. 390 mm TL (the corresponding SL is unknown but estimated as ca. 325 mm). These data suggest that *A. folletti* reaches a larger maximum size than *A. verrucosus*.

Stewart et al. (1995) estimated that for *A. verrucosus* from western Bass Strait, Australia, the age at maturity was 28 years in females and 24 years in males, and the maximum age was 130–170 years for fish of 34–35 cm TL. From the estimated low fecundity, high age at maturity and longevity, Stewart et al. (1995) noted the susceptibility of *A. verrucosus* to over-exploitation. Although the age, growth, and maturity of *A. folletti* are not understood, similar biological features are anticipated due to its close affinity with, and similar deep-sea habitat to, *A. verrucosus*. Collecting biological information of this species, including its life history and genetics, under the valid scientific name *A. folletti*, is required to understand its subpopulations and vulnerability, and to sustainably manage its exploitation.

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