



SEXUAL DIMORPHISM OF THE ANAL FIN MUSCULATURE OF THE RED TAIL SPLITFIN, *Xenotoca eiseni* (RUTTER, 1896)

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ABSTRACT

The “mexcalpique cola roja” or “red tail splitfin” *Xenotoca eiseni* is distributed in the tributaries to the Río Grande de Santiago, in the state of Nayarit on the Pacific slope. It is an omnivorous species that as the rest of the Goodeinae has internal fertilization and intraovarian development. Fertilization is performed by the gonopodium that is structured by the first rays of the anal fin of males and transfers a spermatocyte. Whereas the morphology of the gonads has been studied in both sexes, the structure of the gonopodium is known only on the skeletal aspect, remaining the analysis of the anal fin musculature. As in all of teleosts, each ray of the anal fin is moving by the muscles: *erector analis*, *depressor analis*, right *inclinator analis*, and left *inclinator analis*. In *X. eiseni* a sexual dimorphism of the anal fin is recognized in such a musculature, consisting of the greatest volume of the anterior muscles moving the gonopodium.