

A cocoon-producing parrotfish in the Southwestern Atlantic

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Fig. 1 Initial phase (*top*) and terminal phase (*bottom*) individuals of Zelinda's parrotfish (*Scarus zelindae*) resting on the reef at night wrapped in their mucous cocoons made visible due to trapped particles. Both records on northern coast of Rio de Janeiro, Southeastern Brazil

Several species of parrotfishes (Scaridae) within the genus *Scarus* are known to secrete a transparent mucous cocoon, in which they rest at night on the reef. Of the eight *Scarus* species recognized for the Western Atlantic (Randall 1996; Moura et al. 2001) only two are known to produce cocoons, the princess parrotfish (*Scarus taeniopterus*) and the queen parrotfish (*Scarus vetula*) both from the Caribbean (Randall 1996; DeLoach 1999). Here we report a third species, Zelinda's parrotfish (*Scarus zelindae*), which also produces a mucous cocoon (Fig. 1), to date the only species in the Southwestern Atlantic known to secrete such a night wrapping. *S. zelindae* is endemic to Brazil with a range extending from 0°52'S to 24°20'S (Moura et al. 2001). Both initial and terminal phase individuals (see Randall 1996 for terminology) were recorded resting at night in the mucous cocoon. We suggest that the three species are phylogenetically related, as they share several morphological features (Randall 1996; Moura et al. 2001).

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