Six of the 40 gobiid species recorded in Brazil (Menezes et al. 2003) have been reported in the Patos-Mirim Lagoon System in the southern part of the country. Bathygobius saporator (Valenciennes, 1837), Ctenogobius smaragdus (Valenciennes, 1837), Ctenogobius stigmaticus (Poey, 1860), Ctenogobius shufeldti (Jordan and Eigenmann, 1887), Gobionellus oceanicus (Pallas, 1770), and Gobiosoma parri Ginsburg, 1933 (Chao et al. 1982; Lucena and Lucena 1982; Sinque and Muelbert 1998; Burns et al. 2010). We provide herein the first record of Evorthodus lyricus (Girard, 1858) (Figure 1) in Patos-Mirim Lagoon System.

The genus Evorthodus was diagnosed by Ginsburg (1931) and Dawson (1967), and according to Pezold (2004) the synapomorphy of the genus is the presence of incisiform teeth in juveniles and females. The genus includes only two species, E. lyricus (Girard, 1858) that occurs in western Atlantic coastal and E. minutus Meek and Hildebrand, 1928 from Pacific (Dawson 1967; Foster and Fuiman 1987). The species has already included in listings of threatened fauna of North Carolina (USA) (Lindquist 1988).

On June and July 1992, seventeen individuals of E. lyricus were caught in drainage canal of Pontal da Barra swamp (31°47'08" S 52°14'29" W), Laranjal Beach, Pelotas County, Rio Grande do Sul state, southern Brazil (Figure 2A). Specimens were preserved in 70 % alcohol and identified based on Menezes and Figueiredo (1985). Voucher specimens are deposited at Coleção Ictiológica Morevy Cheffe, Grupo Especial de Estudo e Proteção do Ambiente Aquático do Rio Grande do Sul (CIMC 8991, 7, 19.4-38.2 mm SL; CIMC 9048, 5, 13.8-42.7 mm SL) and Museu de Ciências e Tecnologia, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul (MCP 17576, 5, 20.8-30.4 mm SL).

According to the literature the species was previously recorded from North, Central, and South America in Atlantic coast, from Chesapeake Bay, Florida (USA) to Porto Belo, Santa Catarina, Brazil (Menezes et al. 2003), also recorded from Gulf of Mexico and Greater Antilles, absent from Bahamas (Froese and Pauly 2010).

As a complement of our record, we examined material from fish collection of MCP/PUCRS and confirmed the occurrence of E. lyricus for Siriú Beach (marine waters), Garopaba, Santa Catarina state (MCP 36906 and MCP 36910) and for Tramandaí Lagoon (brackish or estuarine waters), Imbé, Rio Grande do Sul state (MCP 36903 and MCP 36904) (Figure 2B), all of them south of Porto Belo (the previous southern limit of distribution of E. lyricus) (Menezes et al. 2003). Considering these records, the present study widens the distribution of E. lyricus in 300 km southwards.
distribution. According to Foster and Fuiman (1987) the distribution of the species is probably related to coastal currents, affecting the dispersal of pelagic larvae. *Evorthodus lyricus* had parental care behavior, and adult males guarded egg masses, and removed physically small-sized predators from the vicinity of the burrow, previously excavated by the male. These authors suggest that the reproduction of the species is related to gradual freshening of the water during rainy seasons.

The occurrence of juvenile specimens with approximately 14 mm of SL indicates that *E. lyricus* breed in study area. Probably *E. lyricus* also occurs in other localities of Patos-Mirim Lagoon System, however more studies are needed to determine the actual conservation status of this species in the region.

Possible explanations for sporadic occurrence of *Evorthodus lyricus*, and other gobid species in the Patos-Mirim Lagoon System include variations of salinity, inappropriate collecting methods, insufficient sampling of appropriate habitat, low abundance, and the cryptic habits of this species (Wyanski and Targett 1985; Foster and Fuiman 1987; Burns et al. 2010).

Apparently the occurrence of tropical fish in subtropical waters of the Patos-Mirim Lagoon System is related to the Brazilian Current in the Atlantic coast, which brings warm surface waters from the tropical to the subtropical region (Burns et al. 2010). Although anthropogenic factors have influence in fish distributions, the occurrence of other tropical gobiid fishes as *Bathygobius soporator*, *Ctenogobius smaragdus*, *Ctenogobius stigmaticus*, *Gobionellus oceanicus*, *Gobiosoma parri*, and *Dormitator maculatus* in Patos Lagoon, indicates that these species are autochthonous in the region, but are overlooked, and occur at low density in its southern distribution range limits.

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**LITERATURE CITED**


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