

Latitudinal body-size gradients of the squid *Berryteuthis anonychus* in the eastern North Pacific

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ABSTRACT

The gonatid squid *Berryteuthis anonychus* is an important prey of many nektonic species in the North Pacific, yet little is known about its life history. The present study describes the distribution and sizes of specimens collected in the summer of 1999 during cruises aboard the *Oshoro Maru* and *Great Pacific*. Samples were collected along 145°W between 38 and 55°N and along 165°W between 38 and 53°N. Bongo nets were used aboard the *Oshoro Maru* to collect paralarvae and a large trawl was used aboard the *Great Pacific* to collect larger juveniles and adults. Paralarvae were collected at 12 of the 16 bongo-net stations. All were caught north of 45°N. Catches were highest along 165°W north of 50°N in the Alaskan Stream, and decreased southward. Trawl-caught specimens were collected along both transects and increased in body size from 2-3 cm mantle length at 39°N to 8-11 cm at 49°N. These data suggest that *B. anonychus* migrates northward to near the Alaskan Stream to spawn. These and further observations will be discussed.