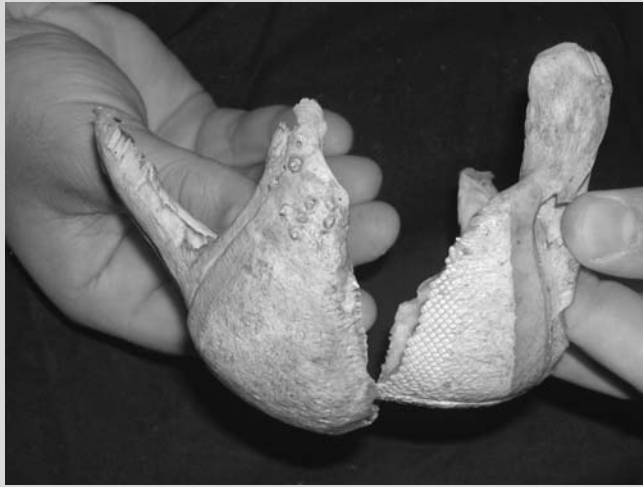


# A recently extinct parrotfish species from Brazil

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**Fig. 1** A juvenile *Scarus* aff. *guacamaia* (MZUSP 47648) collected in Itapuã Beach, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, February 1980. 70.1 mm TL and 58.9 mm SL.



**Fig. 2** *Scarus* aff. *guacamaia* jaw from fish captured in the southeastern coast of Brazil circa 1985. This jaw is the last record of this fish from the Brazilian coast

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Ten scarid species are known from the Brazilian coast (Moura et al. 2001; Gasparini et al. 2003). The largest Brazilian parrotfishes are *Scarus* aff. *guacamaia*, *Scarus trispinosus* (80 cm TL), *Sparisoma amplum* and *S. axillare*. *S.* aff. *guacamaia*, has not been recorded since the mid-1980s, and knowledge of its occurrence in Brazil is restricted to a few museum specimens, a photographed juvenile (Fig. 1) and one jaw obtained from a spearfisherman, all from the mid-1980s or before (Fig. 2). Based on museum specimens and anecdotal accounts (Isy-Schwartz 1954), this species was distributed along the entire tropical Brazilian coast. This is the first account of a marine reef fish extinction in Brazilian reef systems.

Spearfishing of adults has probably excerpted a strong influence on the extirpation of this fish from Brazilian reefs. In addition, juvenile *S. guacamaia* have strong functional dependency on mangroves (Mumby et al. 2004). Local extinction of *S. guacamaia* following mangrove removal and overfishing in the Caribbean (Mumby et al. 2004) suggests that the same process might have facilitated the extinction process in Brazil.

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