Ultra-abyssal snailfishes (Cottoidei: Liparidae) of the Northwestern Pacific

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The synonymy of the ultra-abyssal genera Pseudoliparis from the Northern Hemisphere and Notoliparis from the Southern Hemisphere has been confirmed. This became possible, in particular, thanks to the capture of a liparid fish in the Aleutian Trench, which, based on genetic characteristics, is close to *Notoliparis stewarti*, described from the Kermadec Trench, northeast of New Zealand. However, this specimen lacks the primary diagnostic character used to define the genus *Notoliparis*: the presence of postcoronal pores and temporal canal pores. Furthermore, the relatively low number of rays (11) in the caudal fin places this specimen closer to species of the nominal genus *Pseudoliparis*. In addition to the two known species of liparid fish, at least two more species of the genus *Pseudoliparis*, new to science, were caught in the Kuril–Kamchatka Trench. A record was set for the discovery and capture of the deepest-living fish in the world — 8567 m. It turned out to be a liparid fish (Liparidae), *Pseudoliparis belyaevi*, first discovered in the Kuril–Kamchatka Trench. In two out of three analyzed specimens of liparid fish from this trench, pleural ribs were found; their absence was previously considered one of the diagnostic features of the ultra-abyssal genera *Pseudoliparis* and *Notoliparis*. It has been established that the specimens of liparid fish described in the literature from the North-Western Pacific, which all authors previously attributed to *Pseudoliparis belyaevi*, are in fact *Pseudoliparis amblystomopsis*.