



Manzanillo, Colima, México; November 15, 2011.

Dr. Fernando Álvarez Noguera

Editor-In-Chief of Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad.

Please find attached a new manuscript entitled "First record of a neonate California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) in Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico" authored by Christian D. Ortega-Ortiz, Fernando Elorriaga-Verplancken, Leslie Rodriguez-Téllez, Aramis Olivos-Ortiz and Juan H. Gaviño-Rodríguez for publication as a Note in *Marine Mammal Science*.

In this work we described and analyzed the southernmost recorded sighting of a neonate California sea lion, *Zalophus californianus*, which gave strong evidence (date, the presence of an adult female in the first day of sightings, a weight of 5 kg, and rests of the umbilical cord) of having been born in the region of Manzanillo, Colima in Mexico, which is at a mean distance of 900 km from the species southernmost breeding colonies (Santa Margarita and Los Islotes in the Gulf of California). This document makes an important contribution to knowledge in terms of unusual individual movement and behavior patterns, which are so relevant for the management and conservation of species, especially if more reports like this keep taking place in the future and in a region around Manzanillo, where other unusual reports have been documented in the past (i.e. the southernmost report of a Steller sea lion, *Eumetopias jubatus*).

This manuscript has not been published nor is under revision in any journal. The document was reviewed by all authors and they agree with the content. I hope that you find the materials interesting and worthy of publishing in your journal, because it is the importance for the region.

Potential referees:

- Dr. Juan Pablo Gallo Reynoso, CIAD-Unidad Guaymas, jpgallo@ciad.mx, 6222252824
- Dr. Arturo Serrano Solís, Universidad Veracruzana, arserrano@uv.mx

Sincerely:

Christian D. Ortega-Ortiz, Ph.D.
Facultad de Ciencias Marinas
Universidad de Colima
Campus El Naranjo
Km. 20 Carretera Manzanillo-Cihuatlán.
C. P. 28860.
Manzanillo, Colima, México
Tel. (314) 33 11205
E-mail: christian_ortega@ucol.mx

