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Ronald Fricke, **Sergio Ramírez-Amaro**, **Francesc Ordines** 2023. [Revalidation of *Arnoglossus blachei*, a species of flounder from off West Africa, with a redescription of *Arnoglossus imperialis* from the northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean \(Teleostei: Bothidae\).](#) .Sci. mar.2023

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Abstract: Blache's flounder, *Arnoglossus blachei* Stauch, 1965, is redescribed from the eastern Atlantic (Morocco south to Namibia, including the Canary Islands, larvae reaching South Africa) and distinguished from the imperial flounder *A.*

imperialis

(Rafinesque, 1810) by having a live colouration of the lower side of males which is bright red (whitish in

A. imperialis

), the caudal fin with lateral-line scales 52-57 (vs. 58-63), and the dorsal-fin filaments in male light grey, with black margins, distally yellowish (vs. plain white).

A. lectotype

is selected for *Arnoglossus blachei*. The species is compared with similar species. The externally similar species

Arnoglossus imperialis

is also redescribed; its distribution range is restricted to the Mediterranean and northeastern Atlantic, including Madeira and the Azores. Neotypes are selected to stabilize the usage of the names *Bothus imperialis* Rafinesque, 1810, *Bothus punctatus* Rafinesque, 1814,

Rhombus cristatus

Lowe, 1839 and

Charybdia rhomdoidichthys

Facciola, 1885. Molecular analyses based on two mitochondrial fragments (12s rRNA and COI) clearly support the validity of

A. blachei

. Moreover, though

A. blachei

is morphologically close to

A. imperialis

, the two species show the highest genetic distances among all *Arnoglossus* species compared

(including

A. capensis

,

A. imperialis,

A. laterna

,

A. rueppelii

and

A. thori

). A key to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean species of *Arnoglossus* is presented.

Keywords: biodiversity, blache's flounder, imperial flounder, eastern atlantic ocean, mediterranean sea, distribution, identification key.