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## Introduction to Special Section on Research Activities at the Iztacala Campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México

Mark S. Peterson

*University of Southern Mississippi*, [mark.peterson@usm.edu](mailto:mark.peterson@usm.edu)

Nancy J. Brown-Peterson

*University of Southern Mississippi*, [nancy.brown-peterson@usm.edu](mailto:nancy.brown-peterson@usm.edu)

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## **INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL SECTION ON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE IZTACALA CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO, MÉXICO**

**Mark S. Peterson and Nancy J. Brown-Peterson**

**Special section co-editors**

*Department of Coastal Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi, 703 East Beach Drive,  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564 USA*

In fall 2002, we had the opportunity to initiate a long-term collaboration with colleagues from the Iztacala campus of the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM), whose research interests focus on coastal and nearshore fishes and decapod crustaceans of Veracruz state, Mexico. This is an undergraduate campus with a strong Biology department whose faculty also maintain research programs despite limited sources of funding and a heavy teaching load. During the course of our initial visit, we realized that there is a wealth of unpublished undergraduate student research on understudied fish species. We developed a collaborative partnership in November 2002 between the faculty advisors from the Biology department at UNAM-Iztacala, the Department of Coastal Sciences, The University of Southern Mississippi and non-profit funding organizations interested in research in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. We selected exceptional senior and Masters theses from the Biology department at UNAM-Iztacala which were processed and submitted for peer-review in *Gulf and Caribbean Research* (see Peterson and Brown-Peterson 2004). The following publications are a continuation of the partnership.

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### **LITERATURE CITED**

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