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## A NEW TOADFISH FROM COLON, PANAMA

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While attached to the Marsh-Darien Expedition in 1924 the fish markets in Colon and Panama City were visited before leaving the confines of civilization and after returning to them. The form herewith described is the only one there encountered which appears to have been undescribed.

### *Opsanus hildebrandi*,<sup>2</sup> new species

TYPE.—No. 8443, A. M. N. H.; standard length, 300 mm., total length, 345 mm.; Colon market, Panama.

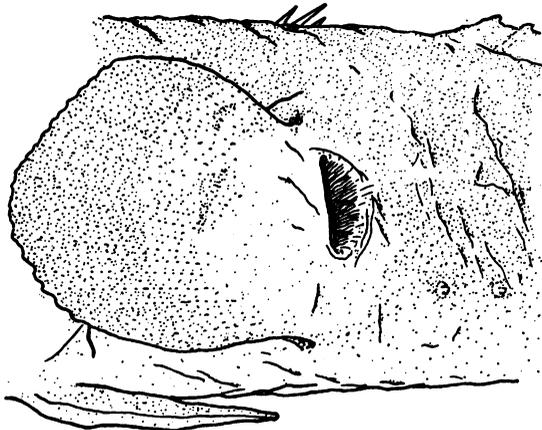


Fig. 1. Axillary region of *Opsanus hildebrandi*, new species. Type. Pectoral reverted to show axillary foramin with its filling of laminated membranes.

Head, 3.0; depth, 4.6; dorsal III-29; anal, 26. Body robust anteriorly, sub-cylindrical, strongly compressed posteriorly, head much depressed, its width nearly as great as its length; eye moderate, 1.2 in interorbital space, 5.7 in head, a small cirrus on its inner posterior margin; snout rather narrow, tapering, its length 4.5 in head; lower jaw hardly projecting, a row of fringed dermal flaps on margin of chin as in *O. tau* (Linnaeus), another row beginning anterior to the nostril and following the curve of the maxillary just above its edge, opposite the nostril a branch arising and following the curve of the orbit just below its edge, a few small cirri on head; maxillary reaching

<sup>1</sup>New York Aquarium.

<sup>2</sup>Named *hildebrandi* in recognition of the studies of Dr. Samuel F. Hildebrand on the Panama fish fauna and his personal aid to me in taxonomic matters concerning the fishes of this region.

over half an eye's diameter past orbit, 1.9 in head; opercule with two strong diverging spines; subopercule with one spine, these spines hidden in skin; premaxillary teeth small, for most part in one irregular row, small conical canine teeth present on vomer and mandible, those on vomer and near mandibular symphysis in two rows; body naked, with heavy folds of loose skin; one lateral line, continuous, each pore accompanied by a cirrus; dorsal fins separate, the first composed of three strong imbedded spines, the second long and low, the rays much enveloped in the loose skin of the body; anal long and low, the eight anterior rays completely separate; pectorals short and broad, the large axillary pores filled with series of more or less anastomosing laminae of membrane, making it appear almost obsolete, no pores at base of interradiation membranes. Coloration uniform blackish brown above, paler below, nearly white ventrally. No definite color pattern anywhere except the white cirri and similar colored small circular area accompanying each lateral line pore, giving the appearance of a white dotted line and a light mottling under the pectoral, immediately surrounding the axillary pore.

This fish, the type and sole specimen, was purchased in the Colon market, where it was exhibited at a stall for sale as food. It is likely that it represents an Atlantic species taken close by, although there is a possibility that it had been shipped from Panama City on the Pacific side. I was given to understand that such shipments were made practically daily at this time.

This species may be readily distinguished from *O. tau* by the somewhat lower vertical fins, the smaller teeth, the conspicuous lateral line, the obsolescence of the axillary pore and its structure, and the lack of a definite color pattern on the body or fins. It suggests an approach to *Amphichthys* in its white lateral line and obsolescent axillary foramin, but otherwise is a typical *Opsanus* in all essential respects.