

AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 281

Published by
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
New York City

Sept. 12, 1927

59.7, 58E(96.9)

A NEW BLENNY FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

By N. A. BORODIN

Amongst fishes collected in 1923 by Major Chapman Grant at Oahu, a new blenny has been discovered. It belongs to the genus *Exallias*, established by Jordan and Evermann in 1905, the type being *Salarias brevis* Kner. Only one species, *Exallias brevis* (Kner), was known previously. Fishes described by Günther as *Blennius brevipinnis* and by Day as *Salarias* and *Blennius leopardus* are synonymized with *Exallias brevis* (Kner) by Jordan and Evermann (see Jordan and Evermann, 'Fishes of the Hawaiian Islands.' Bulletin U.S. Fish Commission, 1903, XXIII, part 1, pp. 503-504).

Exallias obscurus, new species

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Body short (depth 3), slightly compressed. Head high (height $1\frac{1}{8}$ in its length), broad (breadth $1\frac{1}{5}$ in its length), $4\frac{1}{2}$ in the body. Eye

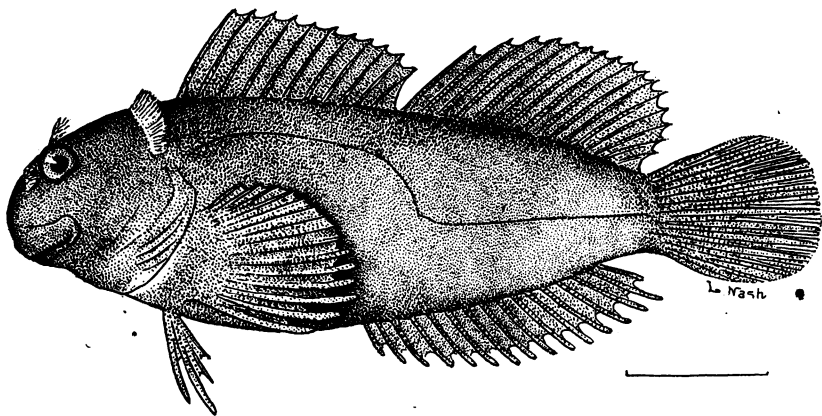


Fig. 1. *Exallias obscurus*, new species.

small ($4\frac{1}{4}$ in head; $2\frac{1}{2}$ in snout), situated almost in the middle of the upper surface of the head; cheeks swollen; mouth cleft large ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in head); branchiostegals present (4). The neck of the naked head is separated from the back by a groove in which a kind of fringed collar is situated. Lateral line makes a slight rising curve in

the beginning, then continues straight and in the middle of the body, makes a sharp, almost right-angled bend and then runs straight to the base of the caudal fin.

Color dark brown, almost black, with no spots.

D. XI, 16; A. 16.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE.—Unique specimen, American Museum of Natural History No. 9363, 120 mm. long (standard), from Hawaiian Islands. Scaleless body short, only slightly compressed, greatest depth at middle of belly; head very high—its height only $1\frac{1}{8}$ in head length, and broad— $1\frac{1}{5}$ in length; cheek swollen; anterior profile beak-shaped, regularly rounded; mouth broad, its cleft $1\frac{1}{2}$ in head; snout blunt, lips both thick and provided with numerous small fleshy tubercles; eye high in about middle of the head; above eyes a fleshy flap provided with fringes, their length about half of eye's diameter; fringed tentacles surround nostrils; a very conspicuous fringed collar all around the neck. There are 4 branchiostegals. A conspicuous lateral line with two bends.

Color of alcoholic specimen dark brown, almost black all over the body, brown on the belly, and whitish along the central margin of the joined gill membranes, and on the isthmus. No spots or bands.

This new blenny can be easily recognized by its short and stout body, its plain dark color, its high fringed nuchal collar, small eyes situated near the middle of the head, and by the peculiar form of its lateral line.