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## TWO NEW FISHES FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN

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Incidental to the ornithological work on the Whitney South Sea Expedition,<sup>1</sup> Mr. R. H. Beck has sent in a few fishes, two of which represent undescribed genera, as follows.

### **PHAËTHONICETHYS**, new genus

A slender, pelagic fish of the family Gempylidæ, known from the posterior part of the body of a single individual taken from the gullet of a tropic bird. Posterior dorsal of high, slender, unjointed rays; anal about 17; caudal moderately forked. A low central keel on the peduncle. Scales very small. Stellate based spiniferous tubercles on the side arranged in four longitudinal rows, those of the upper and lower rows, which follow dorsal and anal bases closely, the largest.

### **Phaëthonichthys tuberculatus**, new species

The type, our only specimen, No. 8257, The American Museum of Natural History, was taken from the gullet of a red-tailed tropic bird, *Phaëthon rubricaudus*, by R. H. Beck of the South Sea Expedition, Rapa Island, southernmost of the Austral Group, February 20, 1922. This specimen measures 113 mm. from the front

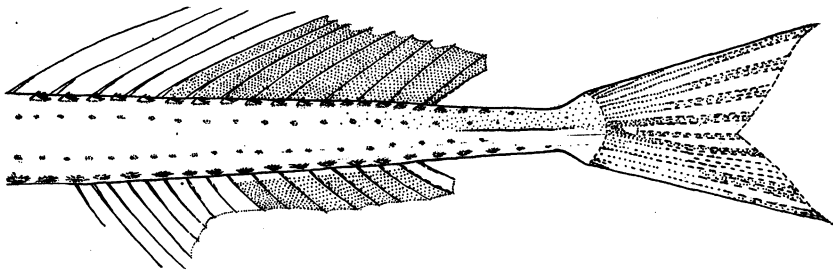


Fig. 1. *Phaëthonichthys tuberculatus*, new species.

of the anal to the base of the caudal, which posterior part of the fish is in fairly good condition. An equal distance anterior to this point is present, but in very poor condition. Nevertheless, it indicates that the approximate depth of body at front of anal is carried forward that far, and that there is an anterior dorsal of 9 or more shorter rays, separated by about twice the depths (at front of anal) from the posterior one. Depth at front of anal, 6.0 times in distance from that point to base of caudal; dorsal rays over front of anal, 2.7 in the same distance; base of anal, 1.5; upper caudal lobe, 2.2; longest anal ray, 4.4; least depth of peduncle, 13.0.

<sup>1</sup>Cf. 1923, Science, N. S., LVI, pp. 701 to 704.

At least 15 rays in the posterior dorsal. Caudal forked for about two-fifths of its length. A peculiar small pit extends under the membrane on either side of the caudal, near the base of its middle rays. Body covered with minute scales. In addition to these a row of stellate based tubercles along bases of dorsal and of anal, two rows of similar smaller tubercles on sides, and with a glass, minute not dissimilar tubercles can be seen scattered among the scales. The best developed tubercles are more or less striate from an anterior apex, whence a main horizontal ridge with 3 or 4 spines curves backward.

Posterior parts of dorsal and anal black, of caudal dusky.

#### **CLUPEOLABRUS**, new genus

The specimen on which this genus is based belongs with the heterogeneous genera sometimes grouped in the *Mænidæ* (1898, Jordan and Evermann, 'Fishes of North and Middle America'). Being somewhat in doubt as to its closer relationship, the writer has asked Garman and Jordan for suggestions. The latter suggests that it may belong in the *Inermiidæ* (see Jordan, 1923, 'A Classification of Fishes'). The former of these authorities finds it very like *Cæzio argenteus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes) equals *Bodianus argenteus* Bloch. On closer study it cannot be that fish. It is suggestive of *Ariomma* of Jordan and Snyder, figured (as an apogonid) in the 'Fishes of Hawaiian Ids.,' Jordan and Evermann.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.—Form elongate, not greatly compressed. Eye large, with narrow adipose eyelid. Mouth moderate, the premaxillaries very freely protractile. Gill openings wide, gill membranes free from one another and from isthmus. Pseudobranchiæ well developed. Teeth very small, well spaced, in front of jaws in one or two series. No spines or serrations about head. Dorsal fin single, occupying most of the back, slender spines in front changing imperceptibly to soft rays behind. Anal about half length of dorsal, ventrals thoracic, a short distance behind pectorals, 1.5. Caudal forked. Body covered with small firm ctenoid scales. Cheeks and opercle scaled; preopercle, snout and jaws scale-less. Ventrals close together, an elongate, pointed scale between them, and a similar scale behind each. Caudal covered with small scales. Lateral line complete.

The name *Clupeolabrus* is from the superficial resemblance of this genus to the unrelated groups of herrings and wrasses.

#### **Clupeolabrus dubius**, new species

The type, our only specimen, No. 8258, American Museum of Natural History, was taken from the mouth of a white tern, *Leucanous albus*, Kamako, Mangareva Island, May 5, 1922. Mangareva is one of the Gambier Group of the Tuamotu Archipelago. The specimen is in poor condition, but admits of a reasonably accurate description. It measures 78 mm., snout to base of caudal. Head contained 3.4 times in this length; depth, 5.5. Eye, 3.3 in head; snout, 3.6; maxillary, 3.0; interorbital, 3.6; least depth of peduncle, 3.6; longest dorsal ray, 1.8; longest anal ray, 3.3; pectoral, 1.4; ventral, 2.3; caudal lobe, 1.4.

The maxillary reaches approximately to below front of eye. Jaws are equal, tip of mandible fitting into a shallow reëntrant between the premaxillaries. Gill-rakers slender, close-set, the longest about half diameter of eye, number about 8+20. Dorsal with about 30, anal with about 15 rays. Approximately 75 scales in a longitudinal series, 5½ rows above and 14 rows below lateral line at origin of anal.

Color in alcohol dusky to below level of the eye, pale along the belly, axil of pectoral with a black spot, and center of each caudal lobe black.

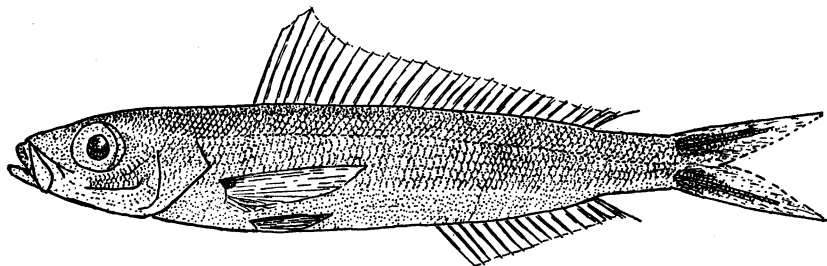


Fig. 2. *Clupeolabrus dubius*, new species.

Other species in the same collection are as follows: from Mangareva, *Decapterus macarellus pinnulatus* (Eydoux and Souleyet), *Trachinotus baillonii* (Lacepede), and *Synanceja verrucosa* Bloch and Schneider. From Marutea, also in the Tuamotu Archipelago, a flying fish, *Cypsilurus simus* (Cuvier and Valenciennes). From Ducie Island a flying fish, *Halocypselus evolans* (Linnaeus), about 7 inches long taken from the gullet of a blue-faced booby, *Sula dactylatra*; and a slender cutlass mackerel, *Lemnisoma thyrsoideus* Lesson; this latter on March 28, 1922, being carried by a white tern, *Leucanous albus*. From Oeno Island, *Mulloides samoensis* Günther.

With these fish should be mentioned the photograph of a large albacore, *Germo allisoni* (Mowbray), captured near Christmas Island, the photograph reproduced in Forest and Stream, July 1922, p. 303. *G. allisoni* was described from Florida by L. L. Mowbray in 1920. Its capture in the Pacific suggests the possibility that it is based on large specimens of *G. macropterus*.

