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STEPHANOLEPIS (PERVAGOR) SEPTEMCLASSIENSIS, A NEW SPECIES OF ALUTERINE FISH FROM NEW GUINEA

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While on active duty as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve, I made a collection of coral reef fishes in Tanamerah Bay in Netherlands New Guinea, which I have subsequently studied at the American Museum of Natural History. The most notable of the species in this collection is an

A comparison of my specimens with a specimen of *Monacanthus tomentosus* (Linnaeus) in the United States National Museum indicates that they are not this species either. It is believed that my specimens, though small, are adults, on account of the long, exerted soft dorsal filaments.

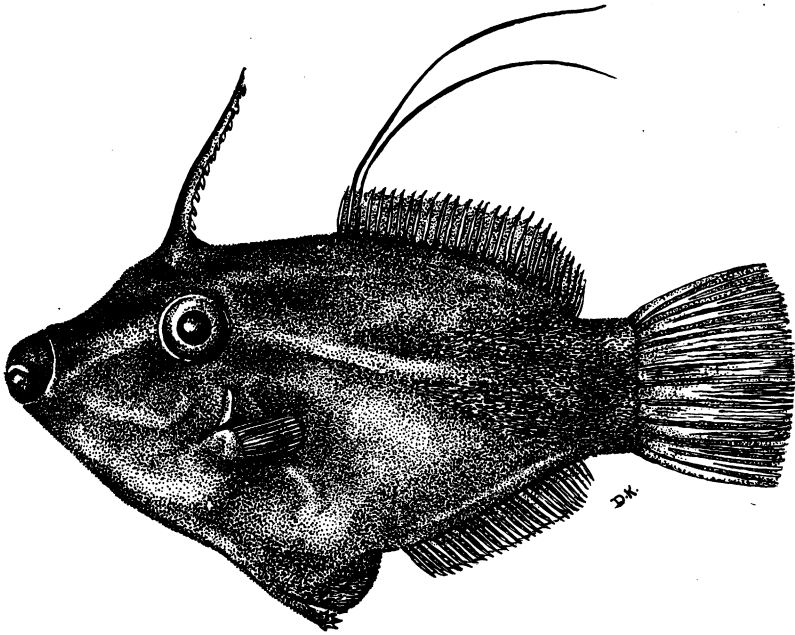


Fig. 1. *Stephanolepis (Pervagor) septemclassiensis*, new species, type, 44 mm. standard length.

undescribed *Stephanolepis*, which is referable to *Pervagor* as defined by Mr. A. Fraser-Brunner (1941, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 11, vol. 8, p. 183).

Dr. A. W. Herre, in a letter to me, definitely confirms the convex profile of *S. nigrolineatus*, thus eliminating this species.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 16520, from Tanamerah Bay, 50 miles west of Hollandia, New Guinea, December, 1944.

Length to base of caudal, 44 mm.; depth from base of soft dorsal to anal in this length, 2.2; depth above ventral spine, 1.7; head, 3.0. Eye in head, 3.0; snout,

1.4; interorbital, 3.0; greatest width of body (behind eyes), 2.1; depth of peduncle, 1.6; its length, 3.2; grand dorsal spine, 1.2; middorsal rays, 3.2; exerted dorsal rays, about 0.8; caudal, 1.6.

Dorsal rays, I-29; anal, 27; pectoral, 11.

Dorsal profile of head concave, ventral profile convex. Oblique gill slit about half of eye, situated almost entirely below posterior half of orbit, and extending at its ventral end close before pectoral base. The grand dorsal spine situated over the middle of the eye; rough on its anterior surface, and carrying 12 downwardly directed spines at each posterior edge. A groove in middle of back behind the spine. Ventral

spine ends in a six-pointed star and carries a few points above this star. Ventral flap triangular, not large, its posterior edge in line with end of spine. The second and third rays of the soft dorsal are prolonged in filaments reaching to or beyond end of fin posteriorly. Scales very small and carrying fine ciliate spines, which are larger and recurved posteriorly.

Color in alcohol dark yellowish gray, uniform gray on fins and snout. Indistinct dark dots on sides. Ventral flap dark. Two indistinct, dark, subterminal lines across caudal.

The comparative measurements of the two specimens follow:

LENGTH	DEPTH	HEAD	EYE	DORSAL SPINE	LENGTH D ₂
44 mm.	2.2	3.0	3.0	1.2	0.9
38 mm.	2.3	2.9	3.0	1.2	0.9