

**Article XXXII.**— A NEW *SCORPÆNA* AND A RARE RAY FROM  
NORTH CAROLINA.

BY JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS.

The Museum has been presented by Mr. Russell J. Coles with the following rare fishes recently obtained for him by his captain Charlie W. Willis, at Cape Lookout, North Carolina.

***Pteroplatea altavela* (Linné).**

Two grown embryos, one  $17\frac{1}{2}$ , the other 15 inches in width, furnish probably the first definite North American record for this species.

Mr. Coles writes that unfortunately the mother was not kept. However the following data were secured.

On May 22, 1914, a very large ♀ was captured. Width 6 ft. 10 in., length (snout to tip of ventrals) 3 ft. 8 in., tail 12 in. It had two spines on the tail. This specimen contained four grown embryos, two on either side. Two of the embryos received by the Museum (No. 4745 and 4746) have each a single well-developed spine on the tail.

***Scorpæna colesi* sp. nov.**

The type and only specimen, No. 4689, American Museum of Natural History, was collected in the bight of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, by Captain Charlie W.

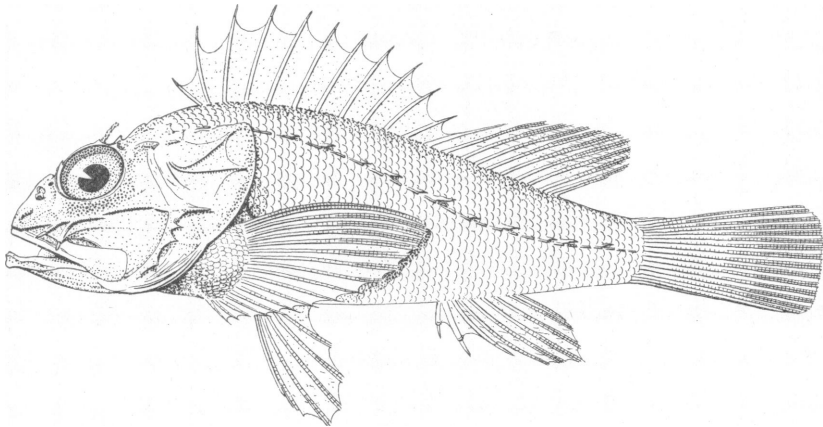


Fig. 1. *Scorpæna colesi* sp. nov.

Willis, April 23, 1914. It is 185 mm. long to base of caudal, depth 3.2 in this measure, head 2.5. Eye 3.7 in head, maxillary 2.2. The interorbital 2 in eye, snout 1.1;

short supraorbital cirrus about 2.5. The eyes are large, impinging on the dorsal contour, the interorbital strongly concave, a deep quadrangular pit at the occiput. The maxillary extends to between the posterior border of the pupil and that of the eye. Lower jaw very slightly projecting, symphyseal knob prominent. The spines about the head are similar to those of *Scorpena brasiliensis*, but weaker, the nuchal ones less divergent, the posterior nuchal separated by a greater distance ( $\frac{3}{4}$  eye) from the origin of the spinous dorsal. Suborbital stay with four weak spinules. Bands of villiform teeth on jaws, vomer and palatines. Scales smooth and membranous, about 56 cross rows. Lateral line with about 14 membranous flaps, some of them large. Breast with small scales. Head scaleless. Dorsal XII, 10, anal III, 6. First dorsal spine  $\frac{2}{3}$  second, the spines then increasing gradually to the fourth, fifth, and sixth, which are longest,—2.8 in head. Longest dorsal ray 2.0 in head. Third anal spine slightly longer and not quite so strong as second, 3.2 in head. Longest anal ray 2.1. Pectorals to origin of anal, 1.3; ventrals to vent, 2.0; caudal about even, 1.5. Color in spirits pale, three obscure dusky blotches on the middle of the side, scattered roundish dark spots on the side of the head, lower sides, and upper inner base of pectoral, the fins, except ventral and anal, faintly mottled, the caudal with a narrow dark tip. Color when caught bright pink.

This species differs from *Scorpena brasiliensis* in the slightly larger eye and more prominent chin, smaller orbital cirrus and different color. Its habitat is probably deeper water.

It is named for Mr. Coles in recognition of his researches at Cape Look-out.