

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF XYRICHTHYS (XYRICH-  
THYS JESSIÆ) FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO.

By DAVID STARR JORDAN.

*Xyrichthys jessiae*, sp. nov. (No. 39420, U. S. Nat. Mus.).

Head,  $3\frac{2}{3}$  in length to base of caudal; greatest depth,  $3\frac{1}{5}$ . D. IX, 12. A. (probably) III, 12. Scales, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ —20—7. Length of typical example,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Body oblong, rather more elongate and rather less compressed than in *X. novacula* (= *X. psittacus*, *lineatus*, *vermiculatus*, and *venustus*). Head rather less deep and less trenchant anteriorly and superiorly than in *X. novacula*; its anterior outline boldly convex rather than parabolic. Depth of preorbital from eye to angle of mouth,  $2\frac{1}{3}$  in head ( $2\frac{1}{10}$  in *X. novacula*). Cleft of mouth,  $4\frac{1}{3}$  in head; anterior incisors strong,  $\frac{2}{5}$ , as in *X. novacula*. Eye moderate,  $4\frac{1}{3}$  in head. No trace of scales on cheeks; length of cheek a little more than half its height (much less than half in *X. novacula*). Scales very large, much larger than in any other of our labroid fishes, the lateral line running along the back on the first complete series of scales. Owing to the injuries which the specimen has received the number of scales can not be exactly counted. It is, however, apparently 20 or 21. Between the sixth spine and the seventh soft ray of the dorsal 8 scales remain. In the same distance on *X. novacula* there are 11 scales, the total number in the lateral line being about 27. The fins are all injured by the digestive process, and are not evidently different from similar parts in *X. novacula*. The dorsal spines seem rather more slender; the anterior spines not produced; the soft rays of the ventrals filamentous.

Color in life, uniform scarlet-red; the sides more yellowish; no blue spots or lines anywhere.

The type of this interesting species was obtained by Mr. Charles H. Bollman from the stomach of some large Grouper (*Cerna* or *Epinephelus*) off Tampa Bay, Florida. It is in rather bad condition on account of having been partly digested. I have named it for my wife, Mrs. Jessie Knight Jordan.

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