

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PIPEFISH (SIPHOS-
TOMA SCOVELLI) FROM CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.

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A RE-EXAMINATION of the specimens of pipefish from Corpus Christi which we referred, with hesitation, in an earlier paper,¹ to *Siphostoma fuscum* (Storer), has convinced us that they cannot belong to that species, but represent a species hitherto undescribed.

Type.—Male and female, No. 47300, U. S. N. M.

Locality.—Shamrock Point, Corpus Christi, Texas, where 130 specimens were obtained November 29, 1891, by Messrs. Evermann, Scovell and Gurley, of the U. S. Fish Commission.

Allied to *Siphostoma affine* (Günther).

Description of female.—Head, $7\frac{1}{4}$; depth, 14; snout, $2\frac{1}{4}$; D. 34, on 4+4 rings; its height 2 in base, which equals head. Rings, 16+32. Nape slightly carinated. Color in alcohol, alternately annulated with light olive brown and dirty white; the dark color on joints, the white on the bodies of rings; dark color wider than white on trunk, narrower on caudal portion; white annulations on trunk between lateral and latero-ventral keels indicated by two narrow white lines with narrow black lines on either side and between, these portions of the whitish rings showing as silver bars in life and fresh alcoholic specimens; upper part of opercles dusky; a dark bar extending from anterior edge of eye to end of snout; ventral keel, throat, lower part of opercles and snout, plain, whitish; dorsal with dark wavy diagonal bars. Other specimens vary in color from somewhat lighter to considerably darker than the above, the darker ones having some white mottling on throat, opercles, and beneath snout. Other females differ in the much less depth, lower dorsal fin, and in the color, which ranges from almost plain olive through forms with reddish mottled appearance to brownish; fewer light-colored annulations and no distinct white or silver bars on sides.

¹The Fishes of Texas and the Rio Grande Basin, considered, chiefly, with reference to their geographic distribution. Bull. U. S. Fish Comm., XII, 1892 (February 6, 1894), 109.

Description of male.—Head, $7\frac{1}{2}$; depth, $22\frac{1}{2}$; snout, $2\frac{1}{4}$; D. 33, on 4+4 rings; its height $2\frac{3}{4}$ in its base, which equals head. The male differs from the typical female in the much less depth, lower dorsal fin, and in the coloration, all of which characters are those of the shallow females. There is in the male, as in the female, considerable color variation, but there are never any distinct white or silvery marks on the sides. Of the 130 specimens, 114 are females and young, 16 being adult males. Some of these were called by us *Siphostoma fuscum*, in the "Fishes of Texas and the Rio Grande Basin."¹

A re-examination of these specimens and of another lot of the same kind which had been misplaced at the time of the first examination shows this identification to be incorrect and the fish probably identical with *Siphostoma affine* of Jordan and Gilbert and subsequent authors. But the range of characters in the large series examined by us seems insufficient to permit the identification of this species with *Sygnathus affinis*, Günther.²

The specimens from the coast of the Gulf of Mexico referred to *Siphostoma affine* by most recent writers, belong apparently to this species rather than to the *Sygnathus affinis* of Günther. While the differences between the two are not great, they appear to be constant in a large series of specimens.

In the following table we give the results of detailed examination of 29 specimens of this species:

Table showing variations in specimens of *Siphostoma scovelli* collected in Texas.

Rings.	Dorsal fin.			Head.	Snout.	Sex.
	On rings.	Rays.	Height in base.			
16+33	3+5	33	$3\frac{2}{5}$	$7\frac{4}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	$4+4\frac{1}{2}$	33	3	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	$4+4\frac{1}{2}$	33	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+33	4+4	34	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	2	♀
16+33	3+4	31	$2\frac{1}{5}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+31	4+4	30	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{4}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	♀
16+33	$3+4\frac{1}{2}$	31	$2\frac{2}{5}$	7	$2\frac{2}{5}$	♀
16+33	$4+4\frac{1}{2}$	34	$2\frac{1}{5}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	♀
16+31	4+4	31	$2\frac{2}{5}$	7	$2\frac{2}{5}$	♀
16+32	4+4	31	$2\frac{2}{5}$	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{2}{5}$	♀
16+31	4+4	34	3	8	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+32	4+4	33	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+30	4+4	31	3	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+31	4+4	32	3	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+32	4+4	33	$2\frac{2}{3}$	8	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+32	3+5	33	3	7	$2\frac{1}{6}$	♀
16+32	3+4	29	$2\frac{1}{2}$	8	2	♀
16+32	4+4	31	$3\frac{1}{5}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{5}$	♀
16+33	4+4	33	$2\frac{1}{3}$	$7\frac{2}{3}$	2	♀
16+31	4+4	32	$2\frac{3}{5}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+30	4+4	30	3	7	2	♀
16+32	4+4	34	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	4+4	32	3	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	$4+4\frac{1}{2}$	33	3	7	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	$4+4\frac{1}{2}$	33	4	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	4+4	33	$2\frac{3}{5}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	3+5	33	$2\frac{2}{5}$	7	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+32	4+4	33	$2\frac{3}{5}$	7	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀
16+33	3+5	31	3	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$	♀

¹ Bull. U. S. Fish Comm., 1892, 109.

² Cat. Fishes Brit. Mus., 163, 1870.

We have examined 13 specimens obtained by Dr. J. A. Henshall on the west coast of Florida, and identified by him as *S. affine*, and find them to agree perfectly with the Corpus Christi specimens, as may be seen from the following table. The first eleven of these specimens were obtained at Marco, Florida; the other two at Key West:

Table showing variation in specimens of *Siphostoma scovelli* collected in Florida.

Rings.	Dorsal rings.	Dorsal rays.	Height of dor- sal fin in base.	Head.	Snout.	Sex.
16+31	4+4	32	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{5}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+32	3+4	32	2 $\frac{2}{5}$	7+	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+33	3+4 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	3	7	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+31	3+4	27	2	7 $\frac{1}{3}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+33	3+4	28	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	2 $\frac{1}{5}$	+
16+31	3+5	×	×	6 $\frac{1}{5}$	×	+
16+30	3+5	32	2 $\frac{3}{5}$	8	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+31	3+4	29	2 $\frac{3}{5}$	7	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+
16+26 ¹	3+4	32	3	×	2 $\frac{1}{5}$	+
16+31	3+4	×	×	7 $\frac{1}{5}$	2 $\frac{1}{5}$	+
16+32	3+4	×	×	6 $\frac{2}{5}$	2 $\frac{1}{5}$	+
16+31	3+4	30	2+	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{5}$	+
16+30	3+4	29	3	6 $\frac{4}{5}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	+

¹ Mutilated.



Evermann, Barton Warren and Kendall, William Converse. 1896. "Description of a new species of pipefish (*Siphostoma scovelli*) from Corpus Cristi, Texas." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 18, 113–115.

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