

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW COTTOID FISH FROM BERING SEA.

BY HUGH M. SMITH.

[Contribution from U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.]

The steamer *Albatross*, while en route from Japan to America in 1900, made a series of dredgings on the coast of Kamchatka and about the Aleutian Islands. At one dredging station in Bering Sea, 150 miles north of the Rat Islands, there was obtained, on June 27, at a depth of 270 fathoms, a small sculpin representing a new genus and species.

Thecopterus, new genus of *Cottidæ*.

Similar to *Dasycottus* Bean, but with the dorsal fins connected, the branchial membranes joined to the isthmus, the preopercle with 3 spines, and the head and body destitute of tubercles and cirri.

Body short, compressed, deep, tapering abruptly backward from the large head; mouth moderate, terminal, the jaws equal; a band of villiform teeth in each jaw and a patch of teeth on vomer; three sharp preopercular spines; gill membranes united to isthmus; no slit behind last branchial arch; dorsal fins connected, the anterior incased in a fold of skin from which the tips of the spines project, the posterior dorsal similar to anal, both partly concealed by skin; ventrals small and short, the rays (apparently) I, 2; skin smooth, scaleless, the lateral line prominent and continuous.

From *Malacocottus* Bean, this genus differs in having vomerine teeth, no cutaneous filaments, connected dorsal fins, etc.

Thecopterus aleuticus, new species.

Head large, broad, little depressed, its length somewhat less than half total length and slightly exceeding its greatest depth and breadth; body compressed, abruptly tapering from dorsal origin to caudal peduncle, the depth of which equals three-fifths diameter of eye; greatest depth of body about equal to length of head posterior to snout; head with small asperities but no ridges or tubercles; snout broad, rounded, less than diameter of eye; eye large, one-third length of head; interocular space much less than eye;

mouth of moderate size, jaws about equal, maxillary extending to vertical from anterior margin of pupil, mandible broadly U-shaped with diverging rami; a rather broad band of villiform teeth in each jaw, and a patch of similar teeth on vomer; upper angle of gill-cover rounded and projecting across the lateral line; the three preopercular spines enclosing a small triangular space, the two posterior spines directed backward, the anterior outward; gill-rakers short; gill-membranes narrowly joined to isthmus; a continuous series of conspicuous lateral pores beginning under the first dorsal spine and extending on caudal fin; dorsal rays $X + 14$, the two parts united by a membrane whose height equals half diameter of eye; anterior dorsal rather high, its length about equal to eye and snout, the spines encased in a smooth dermal sheath from which their tips project;

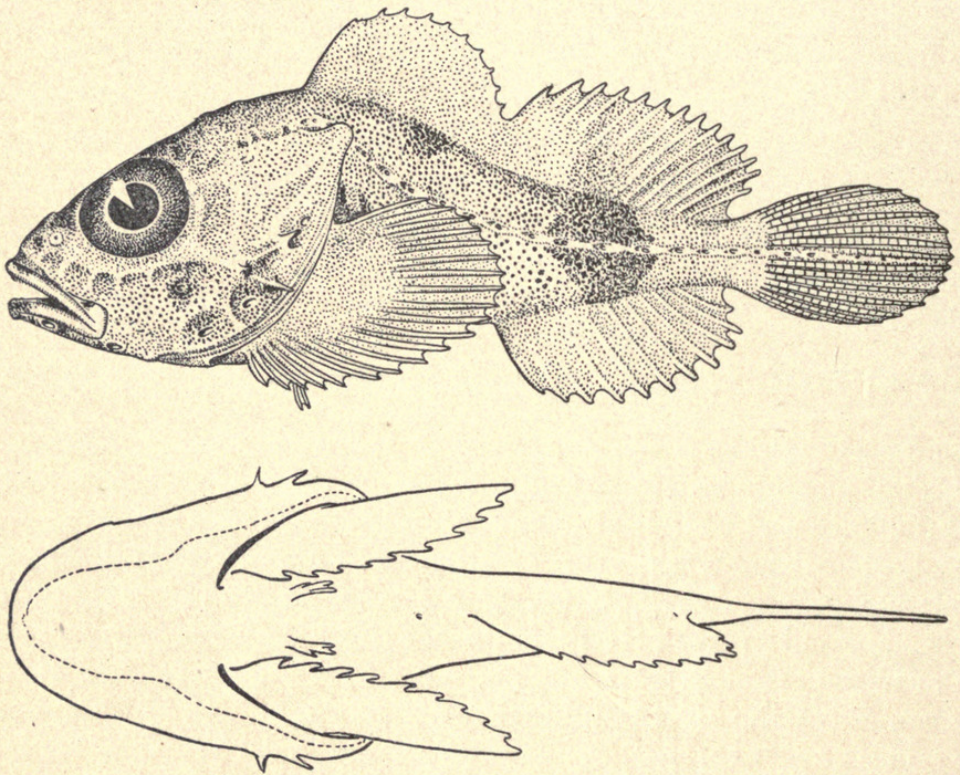


FIG. 1.—*Thecopterus aleuticus* Smith, new genus and species.

soft dorsal longer and higher than spinous, the anterior rays more or less concealed by skin; anal fin with 11 rays, immediately under the soft dorsal and similar to it; caudal rounded, about half length of head; pectorals large, rounded, of 20 rays, extending beyond origin of anal; ventrals very short, the rays I, 2*; anal opening considerably nearer to base of tail than to end of snout.

Color.—Entire body minutely speckled with black; a broad black band across body between soft dorsal and anal fins, another black band behind axil of pectoral; several small dark areas on head, body, and fins.

Type specimen 40 millimetres long, from *Albatross* station 3785, in Bering Sea 150 miles north of the Rat Islands, at a depth of 270 fathoms.

*Owing to the recent mislaying of the specimen, it is impossible to verify this rather abnormal formula for the ventral rays as determined independently by the author and the artist.



Smith, Hobart M. 1904. "A new cottoid fish from Bering Sea." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 17, 163–164.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19609>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/94466>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Internet Archive

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.