

Identity of the wry-mouth fish, *Lyconectes ezoensis*, with *Cryptacanthoides bergi*

Kiyomatsu MATSUBARA

(Fisheries Department, Faculty of Agriculture,
Kyoto University, Nagahama, Maizuru)

In October, 1950 Toyoji Hikita and Toyohiko Hikita described a new species of wry-mouth fish, *Lyconectes ezoensis* in this Journal (Vol. 1, No. 2: 140, 2 figs.), based upon 2 specimens taken off the coast of Kushiro and Abuta, both in Hokkaido.

Recently I examined 2 similar specimens, measuring 231.0 and 226.5 mm respectively in total length, taken off Hamada, Shimane Prefecture, and off Sakai, Tottori Prefecture. These were identified by me as *Cryptacanthoides bergi* Lindberg (Soldatov and Lindberg, 1931: 484, figs. 66 and 67), the manuscript will be issued in Proc. Calif. Zool. Club.

On reading the description of *Lyconectes ezoensis* and comparing it with the original description of *Cryptacanthoides bergi*, I came to the conclusion that these 2 species are identical although the former having shorter head (head 7.48 in body length instead of 6.5 in the latter), smaller eye (eye 14.5 in head instead of 13.6 in the latter), much shorter snout (snout 7.48 in head instead of 4.7 in the latter) and fewer pores in lateral line (68 instead of about 80 in the latter). It should be mentioned, however, that these two species exactly agree in number of dorsal, anal and caudal rays.

Even if these differences are specific, the species given by Hikita and Hikita may certainly be referred to the genus *Cryptacanthoides* Lindberg (Soldatov and Lindberg, 1930: 482) at least in having the teeth on palatines, lacking the scales and provided with the lateral line.

Our specimens discrepant from Hikita and Hikitas' specimens in having larger number of pores in lateral line (80 to 82 instead of 68), longer snout (snout 5.30 to 5.80 in head instead of 7.48), larger eye (eye 11.60 to 13.25 in head instead of 14.5) and longer pectoral (pectoral 3.31 to 3.33 in head instead of 4.63).

Literature Cited

- HIKITA T. and T. HIKITA, 1950: On a new wry-mouth fish found in Japan. Jap. Jour. Ichthyol., i (2): 140-142, 2 figs.
- MATSUBARA, K. In press. *Cryptacanthoides bergi* Lindbrg, a wry-mouth new to the Japanese fauna. In: Proc. Calif. Zool. Club.
- SOLDATOV, V. K. and G. J. LINDERG, 1930: A review of the fishes of the seas of the Far East. Bull. Pac. Sci. Fish. Inst., v: xxi+576 pp., 76 figs., 16 pls.