

Record of the Dragonet, *Draculo mirabilis* Snyder, from Hokkaido, Japan

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Draculo mirabilis Snyder (1911) is a characteristic dragonet in the family Callionymidae by having no spinous dorsal fin (Schultz, 1960: 399). Fowler (1941: 31) erected the subfamily Draculinae for the genus *Draculo* Snyder (1911). Eleven specimens of the present species have been found in the world; 3 adult and 5 juvenile specimens from the south-eastern coast of Hokkaido, Japan (Snyder, 1911; Kobayashi and Abe, 1962), and 3 specimens from Pohai, China (Li, 1955).

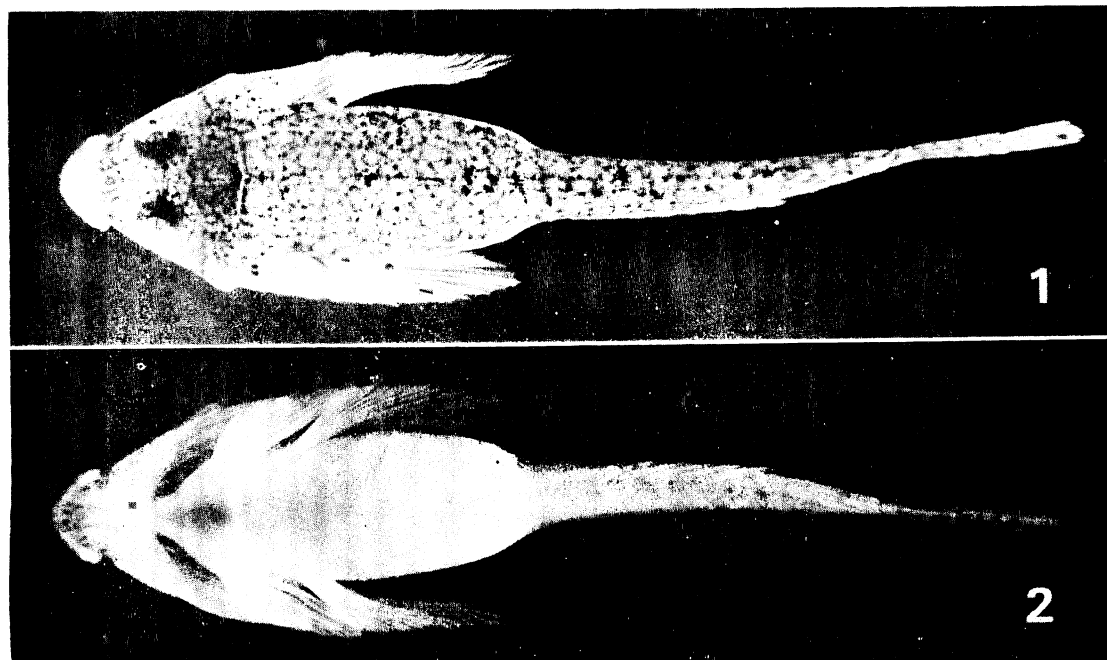
During the collecting trip to the coast of Hidaka 1970 (Natural History Research Project of Japanese Islands), 5 adult females of *Draculo mirabilis*, ranging from 37.9 to 52.4 mm

in standard length, were caught by the author in a seine (height 1.5 m \times width 3 m), on the sandy seashore of Samani (42°07.2'N., 142°57.5'E.), south-eastern Hokkaido. As it was the 4th record of *Draculo mirabilis*, some characteristics and notes of these specimens will be described below.

Draculo mirabilis Snyder

Figs. 1 to 5

Draculo mirabilis Snyder, 1911: 545 (near Tomakomai, Iburi, Hokkaido, Japan); Li, 1955: 179, fig. 114 (Hopeh, Pohai, China); Kobayashi and Abe, 1962: 172, fig. 5 (off Monbetsu, Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan).



Figs. 1 and 2. *Draculo mirabilis* (NSMT-P, 10208, TL 57.50 mm, female). 1, dorsal view; 2, ventral view.

Material

Five female specimens, NSMT-P. 10208–10212, deposited in the Department of Zoology, National Science Museum, Tokyo, 37.9–52.4 mm in standard length, 46.1–63.1 mm in total length; collected at Nishi-u, Samani, Hidaka, Hokkaido, Japan, on August 15, 1970.

Description

D. 12–14; A. 13–14; P. 19–21; V. I, 5; Branched caudal rays, 3–4+3. Vertebrae 24–25, urostylar vertebra counted as one. Spiny points on preopercular spine, 3–4.

Head 3.1–3.4 in standard length; depth 7.8–8.3. Length of snout 4.5–5.4 in head; orbit 4.9–5.2; interorbital width 7.4–9.5 (Table 1).

Body broad and flat, tail rather abruptly compressed behind anus (Fig. 3). Caudal peduncle deeper; least depth of caudal peduncle 16.1–19.1 in standard length. Head and snout depressed; snout subequal with orbit; interorbital space slightly concave and narrow;

0.52–0.70 in orbit. Skin of head thin and smooth. No orbital tentacle. Nostril opening at tip of a tube. Mouth small; maxillary not reaching eye; lower jaw projecting



Fig. 3. Dorsal view of *Draculo mirabilis*.

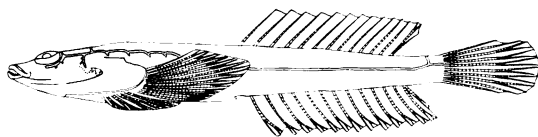


Fig. 4. Lateral view of *Draculo mirabilis*.

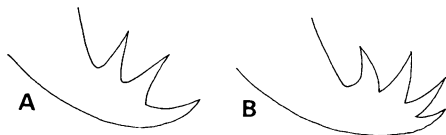


Fig. 5. Variations of spiny points on preopercular spine of *Draculo mirabilis*. A, NSMT-P. 10208; B, NSMT-P. 10209.

Table 1. Proportional measurements and counts of *Draculo mirabilis*.

	NSMT-P.					Snyder (1911)	Li (1955)	Kobayashi and Abe (1962)
	10211	10210	10209	10208	10212			
Total length (mm)	46.1	54.8	55.7	57.5	63.1			6.0–9.6
Standard length (mm)	37.9	44.2	45.9	46.8	52.4	35	26–40.5	4.7–7.5
Vertebrae	25	24	24	24	25			
D.	14	13	13	13	12	14	14	13–14
A.	14	13	13	13	14	13	13	13–14
P.	20	19	20	19	21	18	18–19	19–20
V.	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5		1,5	6
Branched caudal rays	3+3	3+3	3+3	3+3	4+3			
Spiny points on preopercular spine	3	4(left) 3(right)	4	3	3	4	3–4	2
S.L./Head	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.4	2.9	3.4–3.7	2.2–3.1
S.L./Body depth	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.3	6.6	9–10.1	3.1–4.3
S.L./Depth of caudal peduncle	16.1	17.0	19.1	16.1	18.7			6.3–9.4
Head/Snout	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.1	4.5	4.5	4.7–6	
Head/Orbit	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.2	5	3.8–4.4	
Head/Interorbital width	9.5	8.5	7.8	8.1	7.4	10	12.7–14.2	
Head/Length of pectoral	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.25	1.1–1.2	
Head/Length of pelvic	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.8	2	1.5–1.6	
Head/Length of caudal	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1–1.2	
Sex	♀	♀	♀	♀	♀			

anteriorly slightly beyond the upper; upper jaw protractile. Lower lip with a fringe of 12–16 long papillae. Teeth minute, forming narrow bands on jaws; none on palatines and vomer.

Gill opening narrow, superior in position at rear of opercle. Preopercular spine with 3–4 spiny points; no antrorse spiny point near basal part of preopercular spine (Fig. 5). Opercular flap extending posteriorly to base of pectoral. All specimens female and gravid. Anal papilla small. A single lateral line extending from occiput to base of caudal fin with short branches at intervals; lateral lines tilting slightly downward near middle of body, connecting each other on nape and on caudal peduncle (Fig. 3). Two branches of sensory canal on head; one beneath eye, the other extending downward to edge of preoperculum (Fig. 4).

Spinous dorsal absent. All dorsal rays unbranched except for last ray. Anal rays branched (Fig. 4); the last ray extending slightly beyond base of caudal when depressed.

Caudal rounded; its length 1.3–1.5 in head. Pectoral pointed; 1.2–1.4 in head. Pelvic pointed; 1.7–1.9 in head. Pelvic fin membrane not connected with pectoral fin base.

Color in formalin gray, back and sides finely marbled and speckled with brown; dorsal, caudal and upper part of pectoral with brown spots.

Notes. The structure of rays on dorsal and anal fins was not given in the original description (Snyder, 1911). It was reported that soft dorsal rays of *Draculo mirabilis* Snyder were branched at tips, but all anal rays unbranched except the last (Schultz and Woods, 1948; Schultz, 1960). In the present specimens, however, soft dorsal rays are not branched except the last one and all anal rays are branched. The figure of *Draculo mirabilis* given by Li (1955) shows that both dorsal and anal fin rays unbranched. Probably the branched anal rays were taken for the unbranched dorsal rays in Schultz and Woods (1948).

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日高沿岸で採集されたバケヌメリ, *Draculo mirabilis*

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バケヌメリ, *Draculo mirabilis* Snyder は 1911 年に北海道胆振支庁苫小牧市付近の海浜でとれた体長 35mm の 3 標本に基づき新種として発表された種類である。本種はネズボ科 (Callionymidae) の中では、背鰭が一つしかない唯一の種類として特異であるが、その後、中国の渤海湾で体長 26–40.5 mm の 3 尾、北海道日高支庁門別町の沖で体長 4.7–7.5 mm の稚魚 5 尾の採集記録があるにすぎない。

最近、北海道・日高沿岸の様似町の海浜でバケヌメリの雌の成魚が 5 尾 (体長 37.9–52.4 mm)、縦 1.5 m、横 3 m の手曳網で採集された。珍しい魚なので採集標本の形態について報告した。

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