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The Record of Scorpaenoid Fish, *Snyderina yamanokami*, Collected from off Amami-Oshima, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan

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Recently I examined one specimen of a scorpaenoid fish which was identified *Snyderina yamanokami* Jordan et Starks, 1901 (Japanese name: Yamahime). This specimen was taken from off Amami-Oshima, Kagoshima Prefecture, on June 1972 and has been deposited in the collections of the Kochi Senior High School (cat. no. 15082). The holotype of this species is 217 mm in standard length, collected from Kagoshima, Japan. No other collecting record are available. I wish to report here the occurence of this congiopodid species and its external characters.

Description

Counts and proportional measurements: Dorsal rays XIII, 11; anal rays III, 6; ventral rays I, 5; pectoral rays 14; branched caudal rays 10; pores in lateral line 20; gill-rakers on the first arch 3+1+11; branchiostegal rays 7.

Total length 177.0 mm; standard length 130.0 mm; greatest depth of body 50.5 mm; head length 54.0 mm; snout length 10.5 mm; length of upper jaw 20.8 mm; interorbital width 8.0 mm; diameter of orbit 15.5 mm; least depth of caudal peduncle 10.3 mm.

Teeth very small, arranged in moderate villiform bands on jaws and vomer; palatines toothless. Anterior nostril with a tentacular flap posteriorly. Orbit large, the diameter longer than snout, and somewhat narrower than twice the least width of interorbital space, which is slightly convex. Head with many spines and ridges, the ridges smooth and covered with thin skin. Supraorbital rim raised in a low crest, not ending posteriorly as a spine; a pair of nearly parallel low ridges running along near middle of interorbital space, forming a narrow channel between them. Two distinct longitudinal ridges present behind supraorbital rim, but not provided with spines. A series of three low ridges runs longitudinaly from the eye to somewhat below the origin of the lateral line, and a low immediately above the middle one. Preorbital bone armed with two strong spines, the posterior one long and pungent, directed backward, extending posteriorly nearly to end of maxillary; the anterior one small, directed downward. Suborbital edge strong and smooth, extending backward, and connecting at right angle with a ridge which follows around margin of preopercle, at upper part of uppermost preopercular spine. Preopercular spines 4, the uppermost much longer than the other, directed backward, the other 3 rudimentary, entirely hidden under skin. Opercle with 2 rudimentary ridges, but none of them ending in a spine.

Pectoral fin moderatery long, reaching above base of the first soft anal ray, all rays branched except for the uppermost one; the rays not thickened. When ventral fins are laid back, the longest ray ending slightly before the origin of the anal fin. Dorsal fin inserted above middle of eye, without notch between spinous and soft parts. Spinous dorsal rather high; the first one about as long as diameter of eye; the third one, which is longest, somewhat longer than postorbital part of head; membrane between dorsal spines moderately incised. Soft dorsal extends beyond base of caudal, when the fin is laid back; the sixth ray longest, slightly shorter than the third dorsal spine; posterior margin of the fin straight, forming an angle slightly less than a right angle with the superior margin; the last dorsal ray adnate to caudal peduncle for its whole length. Anal fin inserted below the last dorsal spine; the first spine scarcely as long as diameter of eye; the third one twice length of the first; soft anal ray extending slightly beyond base of caudal, when the fin is laid back; the last ray adnate to caudal peduncle for about half its length. Caudal fin narrow and elongate, with round posterior margin.

Scales cycloid, thin, very small, scarcely imbricated, and mostly hidden under the skin; head, breast before ventrals, back below basal part of dorsal fin, axils of pectoral and fins all naked. Gill-rakers short and blunt, uneven and thickly covered with villiform spinules; the longest one on the first gill-arch longer than half of the gill-filament.

Color in formalin slaty white uniformly; side

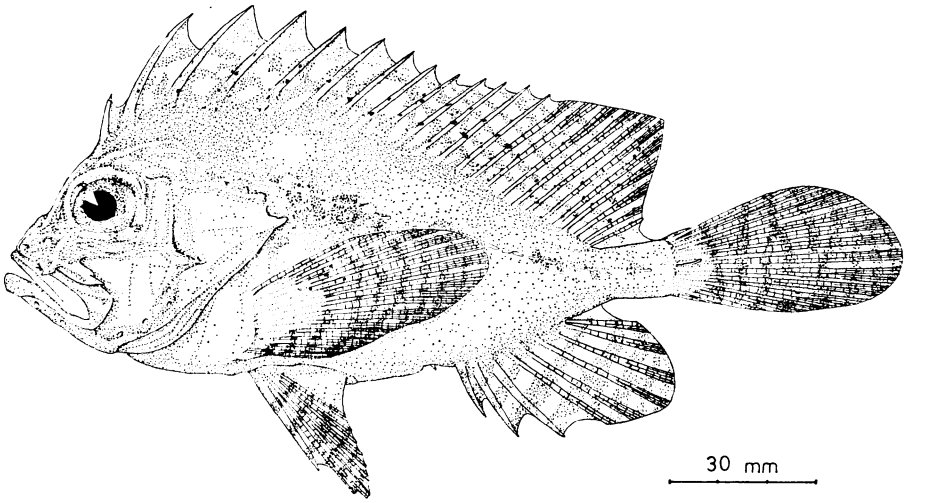

Fig. 1. *Snyderina yamanokami* Jordan et Starks. Cat. no. 15082.

of body with four irregular dark brownish blotches on lateral line, which are smaller and fading gradually backward; the first one, which is largest and distinct, behind upper part of gill-opening; the second one below base of 10th to the last dorsal spine; the third one below base of forth to sixth soft dorsal ray, and the last one below the last soft dorsal ray to caudal peduncle. A broad, faint, dark brown stripe running from mandible obliquely upward throught eye and extending to base of the first to third dorsal spines. Membrane of spinous dorsal clouded with brown; all of other fins with vermiculated markings transversely across rays. Spines and rays of dorsal, pectoral and ventral fins with one or three small, black spots.

Acknowledgments

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Literature cited

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奄美大島産のヤマヒメ *Snyderina yamanokami*

山川　武

奄美大島沖から得られたハオコゼ科の一標本を調べたところヤマヒメ *Snyderina yamanokami* Jordan et Starks と判明した．この標本は原記載ときわめてよく一致している．本種は原記載以外の報告がないように思われたので，主に外部形態について詳しく記載した．

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