

The First Appearance of a Deep-Sea Iniomous Fish, *Bathypterois atricolor antennatus* (GILBERT)* in Japan

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Recently Mr. Tamotsu IWAI kindly sent to me a fine specimen of a deep-sea iniomous fish belonging to the genus *Bathypterois*, which had been taken by the motor trawler on December 18, 1952 at a depth of about 170 hiro (about 258 meters) off Daiozaki, Mie Prefecture. The genus *Bathypterois* GÜNTHER contains about 11 species and 4 subspecies throughout the world (PARR, 1928: 25-27; PARR, 1934: 19), but no species has been found in the waters of Japan. The present specimen was in a good condition although the scales were mostly torn off and the tips of the rays in each pectoral fin were partly broken off. Upon careful examination, it was found identical with a Hawaiian species, *Bathypterois antennatus* GILBERT (GILBERT, 1905: 590, fig. 235) in spite of several significant discrepancies in characteristics and remoteness in locality from the type. This species, however, has since been considered to be a subspecies of the Indian species, *Bathypterois atricolor* ALCOCK (ALCOCK, 1896: 306; ALCOCK, 1899: 159), by PARR (PARR, 1928: 31). Since the publication of GILBERT's description and figure of this rare fish in 1905, the species has never been recorded in any part of the world except in Hawaii.

The present specimen is 148 mm. in standard length (175 mm. in total length), having the following counts and measurements:

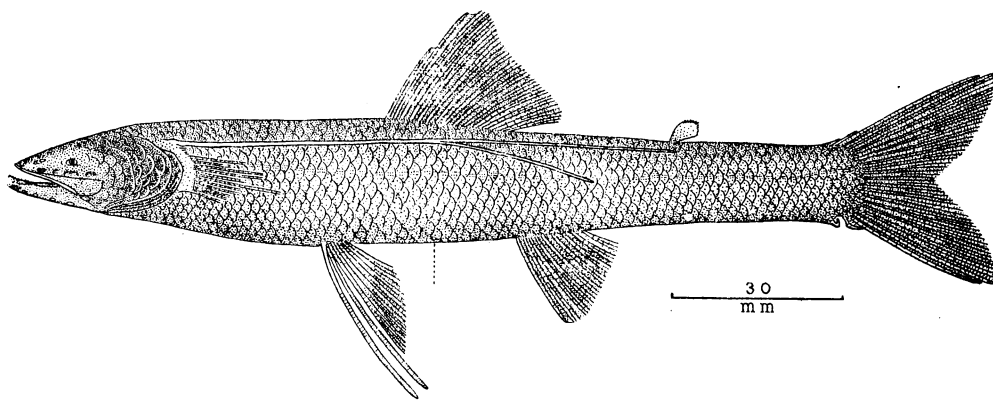


Fig. 1. *Bathypterois atricolor antennatus* (GILBERT) in lateral view, 148 mm. in standard length (MATSUBARA's Fish Coll. No. 20402). Drawn by author.

D. 14; A. 9; P. 2+4(rudimentary)+11; V. 2(simple)+7; C. 2 rudimentary)+19+2 (rudimentary). Scales in lateral line 61. Gill-rakers on outer arch 11+1 (at angle)+29=41. Head 4.82 in body length measured from tip of snout to base of lowermost developed caudal ray; greatest depth at the origin of ventral fin 6.73; distance from

* Itohiki-iwashi (New Japanese name)

tip of snout: to origin of dorsal fin 2.24, to origin of adipose dorsal fin 1.27, to origin of anal fin 1.65, to origin of ventral fin 2.63; length of caudal peduncle 3.25. Snout 3.34 in head measured from tip of snout to end of opercular flap; upper jaw 1.86; eye diameter 15.35; interorbital space 2.74; depth of caudal peduncle 2.22; base of dorsal fin 1.38; same of anal fin 2.56; ventral fin 0.95; longest dorsal ray (3rd one) 1.23; longest anal ray (2nd one) 1.73.

The present specimen is discrepant from the holotype of GILBERT's species in description in some important points: Teeth minute, in a narrow band both on premaxillary and mandible; minute asperities covering nearly entire surface of vomer (teeth in a narrow band on premaxillary and a wider band in the mandible, and a few minute asperities covering in a patch on each side of the head of the vomer in holotype). Gill-rakers on outer arch fewer, 41 instead of being 48 in the holotype. Origin of anal fin immediately behind a vertical from the end of base of dorsal fin (base of dorsal fin very slightly overlapping front of anal fin in the holotype). Origin of adipose fin slightly nearer base of dorsal fin than that of caudal fin, the distance from origin of adipose fin to base of caudal fin much longer than half the distance from the former to origin of dorsal fin (origin of adipose fin much nearer base of caudal fin than that of dorsal fin, and the distance from origin of adipose fin to base of caudal fin about one-third as long as the distance from the former to origin of dorsal fin in the holotype). Lower caudal lobe approximately as long as the upper (lower caudal lobe longer than the upper in the holotype). Four minute rays, though hardly visible with naked eyes, in upper portion of pectoral fin immediately below base of produced rays (1 in the holotype). Two outer ventral rays elongated, but falling short of origin of anal fin by a distance equal to width of maxillary (extending well beyond base of last anal ray in the holotype). In formalin the back of body brownish black, but the sides and belly much paler; opercular region jet black; fins brownish black except for whitish pectoral fin (body uniformly brownish black, and the pectoral filaments and tips of outer ventral rays white in the holotype).

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