

Pontinus niger, a Synonym of the Scorpionfish *Ectreposebastes imus*, with Extension of its Range to Japan

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Fourmanoir (1970) recently described a bathypelagic scorpionfish from the Marquesas Islands as a new species of *Pontinus*. He placed the species provisionally in *Pontinus* because he thought it had simple pectoral rays but noted its cavernous head, a character he correctly associated with the genus *Setarches* (subfamily Setarchinae).

The photograph accompanying the original description indicated that the species is close to, if not identical with, *Ectreposebastes imus* Garman. Dr. Fourmanoir and Mr. J. Rivaton in Noumea sent a second specimen (from New Caledonia) to Collette, who found that it clearly agrees with the description of *Ectreposebastes imus* published by Eschmeyer and Collette (1966).

The holotype of *P. niger* (Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris 1970-34, 119 mm standard length) was taken southwest of the Marquesas Is. by the Caride V, sta. 20, 9°56' S, 141°52' W, 9 Nov. 1965, 21:06 hrs., with an oblique tow of a midwater trawl from 0-1200 m. The second specimen (USNM 206500, 112 mm SL) is from southwest of New Caledonia, 22°02' S, 165°57' E, 28 April 1971, 19:45 to 22:30 hrs., 360 m. Fourmanoir gave counts of D. XI, I 10 and A. III, 6 for the holotype and Collette has confirmed these counts for both specimens. These agree with the modes as given by Eschmeyer and Collette (1966) for 37 specimens of *E. imus*. The pectoral ray count of the type is 16 which is below the range for the subfamily but there are 18 pectoral rays (divided) on each side of the New Caledonia specimen in agreement with the range for *E. imus* (18-20). Both specimens fit the description of *E. imus* in other characters:

vertebrae 10+14 (USNM specimen); gill rakers on first arch 3+8 (3+9 in type of *P. niger*); intestine and pyloric caeca pale; interorbital width 13.4% of standard length (15.2% in type); top of head with scales; greatest body depth 38.1% of standard length (38.9% in type); anterior spine of preorbital bone greatly reduced.

A specimen of *E. imus* was collected at the depth of 1000 m off the shore of Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan (Maruyama, 1970). The specimen was 73 mm in standard length. Counts and measurements reported are within the range of variation for the species (Eschmeyer and Collette, 1966). Though Maruyama did not discuss the distribution of the species, this was the first record of *E. imus* from Japan.

Also a specimen of *E. imus* (Fig. 1) was collected from Suruga Bay, off Heta, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, by a trawler operated by Mr. Shigeo Endo in April, 1967. The specimen, the second record of *Ectreposebastes* from Japan, was obtained by a collecting team from Yomiuri-land Aquarium and brought to Uyeno. This specimen is now deposited in National Science Museum, Tokyo, and the catalogue number is NSMF-P 17480. Counts, measurements (mm), and percentage of the standard length (in parentheses) are as follows: lateral line scales with pores ca. 45; scales above lateral line 12; scales below lateral line ca. 35-38; dorsal fin rays XII, 10; anal fin rays III, 6; pectoral fin rays 19 left, 20 right; principal caudal rays 14; number of gill rakers 4+9=13; standard length 95.5; body depth 43.3 (45.3); head length 46.5 (48.7); orbit diameter 7.1 (7.4); interorbital width 14.0 (14.7); snout length 16.3 (17.1);

least depth at caudal peduncle 10.0 (10.5); upper jaw length 27.0 (28.3); lower jaw length 28.0 (29.3); predorsal length 45.0 (47.1). All meristic and morphometric data are within the range of variation reported by Eschmeyer and Collette (1966). However, this specimen appears to have larger vomerine teeth in fewer rows than do specimens of similar sizes from the Galapagos area perhaps indicating some geographic differentiation.

Six of the original seven Albatross specimens of *Ectreposebastes imus* came from two stations off the Galapagos Is. (the seventh from off the coast of Ecuador, at $0^{\circ}37' \text{ S}$, $81^{\circ}00' \text{ W}$, not $80^{\circ}00' \text{ W}$ as given by Eschmeyer and Collette, 1966:367). Recent collections around the Galapagos by the R/V Alpha Helix in 1967 and 1970 and by the R/V Anton Bruun during Cruise 18B of the South East Pacific Biological Oceanography Program in 1966 confirm the relative abundance of *E. imus* there compared to its almost total absence elsewhere in the eastern Pacific. Eight specimens, 61–141 mm SL (Scripps Inst. Oceanogr. 69–243) were taken in Banks Bay, off the northeast end of Isabela (Albemarle) Is. using a six foot Isaacs-Kidd midwater

trawl (IKMWT), with 305 m of wire out over 1.8 km (probable fishing depth 150–180 m), on 22 Nov. 1967. Small individuals were jet black, but the larger ones were dark red, with the fin rays lighter red (Rosenblatt, pers. comm.). Another specimen (SIO 69–244, 118 mm SL) was taken in the same area with the same gear on 27 Nov. 1967. In October and November of 1970, the Alpha Helix took 68 more specimens under comparable hydrographic conditions between Isabela and San Salvador (James) Is. The Anton Bruun collected *E. imus* from four stations (Eschmeyer, pers. comm.): sta. 769, $03^{\circ}24' \text{ S}$, $80^{\circ}45' \text{ W}$, 10 Sept. 1966, 4 specimens; sta. 796, $00^{\circ}15' \text{ S}$ to $00^{\circ}06' \text{ S}$, $90^{\circ}57' \text{ W}$ to $91^{\circ}03' \text{ W}$, IKMWT, 24 Sept. 1966, 9 specimens; sta. 618C, $00^{\circ}41' \text{ S}$, $91^{\circ}36' \text{ W}$, 0–390 m, IKMWT, 26 May 1966, 5 specimens; sta. 618D, $00^{\circ}41' \text{ S}$, $91^{\circ}38' \text{ W}$, 0–290 m, IKMWT, 26 May 1966, 9 specimens. Most of these 27 specimens will be deposited at the U.S. National Museum, some at the California Academy of Sciences.

Until 1966, *Ectreposebastes imus* was known only from the three Albatross stations in the tropical eastern Pacific at the Galapagos Is.

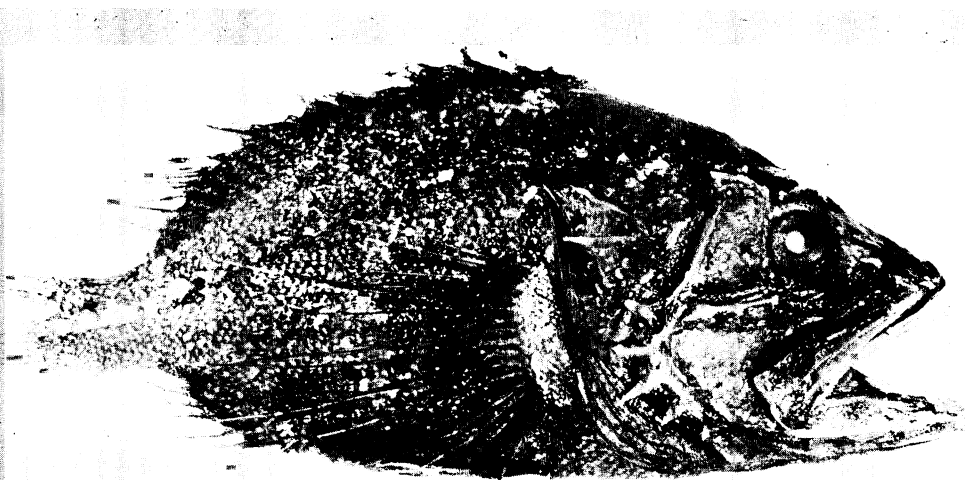


Fig. 1. The specimen of *Ectreposebastes imus* from Suruga Bay. Standard length 95.5 mm. The catalogue number NSMT-P17480.

and off the coast of Peru (Garman, 1899). The range was then extended to the Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Guinea) by Eschmeyer and Collette (1966). Recently, the Townsend Cromwell collected 229 *E. imus* south of Honolulu, Hawaii in 567–686 m (Eschmeyer, 1969; Struhsaker, pers. comm.). The further extension of the range to the Marquesas, New Caledonia and Japan confirms that *E. imus* is widespread in the Pacific and indicates that it may occur in the Indian Ocean as well.

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クロカサゴ (新称) の分布とそのシノニム *Pontinus niger* について

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Fourmanoir が 1970 年にマルケサス諸島からの標本にもとづき記載した *Pontinus niger* はクロカサゴ *Ectreposebastes imus* Garman, 1899 のシノニムであることがわかった。

またクロカサゴの分布域はこれまでに報告されていたよりずっと広範囲にわたっており、最近ガラパゴス諸島、ハワイ諸島の附近で採集されたのみでなく、ニューカレドニア、および日本にもおよんでいる。

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