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A New Record of *Bassozetus zenkevitchi* (Ophidiidae, Ophidiiformes) from Japan

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The deep-sea ophidiid fish *Bassozetus zenkevitchi* was originally described by Rass (1955) on the basis of a single specimen collected off Itrup Island, one of the Kuril Islands. Since the original description no additional material has been reported. In this report we describe three specimens of this species collected by Dr. Osamu Okamura from the western Pacific off central Honshu, Japan, at depths greater than 2,000 m. This second record of *B. zenkevitchi* represents an addition to the ichthyofauna of Japan. Head-squamation and the numbers of the caudal fin rays, pyloric caeca and vertebrae of the species are given here for the first time.

Bassozetus zenkevitchi Rass, 1955

(New Japanese name: Fukumen-itachiuo)

(Figs. 1, 2)

Bassozetus zenkevitchi Rass, 1955: 333, fig. 5; Cohen and Nielsen, 1978: 27.

Material examined. BSKU (Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Kochi University) 19548, 184 mm in SL, 30°51.5′N, 140°45.5′E, off Torishima I., near Izu-Ogasawara Trench, 2,470 m, 5 Dec. 1964, trawled by the R/V *Soyo-maru*. BSKU 19941, 263 mm in SL, 30°37.0′N, 141°40.5′E, off Torishima I., near Izu-Ogasawara Trench, 2,140 m, 12 July 1969, trawled by the R/V *Soyo-maru*. BSKU 22532, 224 mm in SL, 34°32.3′N, 138°34.2′E—34°32.9′N, 138°24.7′E, off Omaezaki, Shizuoka Pref., 2,590–2,620 m, 21 July 1974, trawled by the R/V *Hakuho-maru*, during the cruise of KH-74-3.

Description. Counts and proportional measurements of the present materials are given in Table 1. The methods of counts and measurements mostly follow Hubbs and Lagler (1958). Counts of caudal fin rays and vertebrae are made in accordance with the methods of Cohen and Nielsen (1978). Scales in the lateral series are counted from the origin of the first dorsal ray. Preanal length or prepelvic length is the distance from the tip of snout to the origin of the anal ray or pelvic ray.

Body compressed, tail long and attenuate. Head small, compressed, 5.3 to 5.5 times in body length, slightly longer than one-half preanal; top of the head rather flat. Mouth terminal, slightly oblique, upper jaw containing lower jaw; maxillary strongly sheathed with dermal fold of the cheek, large, extending backward much beyond posterior margin of eye. Snout slightly protruding; the tip truncate in dorsal view. Anterior nostril an extremely short tube, equidistant from tip of the snout and eye; the posterior one high, about at level of the mid-eye, closer to eye than to the anterior one. Eye elliptical, small, equal to or a littlc shorter than one-half length of snout; interorbital space somewhat inflated, its width more than 3 times diameter of eye. Opercular spine flat, thin, flexible, blunt at the tip, and fully covered with scaly skin. Preoperculum without spines, its posterior margin anterior to the posterior margin of operculum. Branchiostegal membranes joined together far forward, and free from isthmus.

Teeth small, in villiform bands in jaws, prevomer and palatines; prevomerine tooth band broadly V-shaped. Tongue broad, very short, the tip pointed. Developed rakers on 1st gill arch 15 to 18, the longest a little more than diameter of eye. Median basibranchial tooth patch absent in BSKU 19548 and BSKU 22532, but a single, extremely short patch on the right side at about midpoint of the basibranchial in BSKU 19941. Pseudobranchial filaments 2, very short.

Dorsal and anal fins continuous with caudal fin. Origin of dorsal fin above upper angle of the gill opening. Anal origin beneath 15th or 16th dorsal fin ray. Caudal fin rays much longer than the adjacent dorsal and anal fin rays. Pectoral fin rounded, short, not reaching to vent. A hidden spine of cleithrum broad and blunt. Pelvic fins each with a single filamentous ray, scarcely shorter than one-half distance between its base and vent, the bases closely adjacent to each other.

Head covered with thick but loose skin. Body fully covered with small, imbricate, cycloid scales. Scales on head far smaller than those on body. Scales absent from maxillaries, underside of the head and branchiostegal membranes. Lateral line and scales on the bases of median fins indistinct.

Swim bladder large, with thick wall. Pyloric caecum absent.

In alcohol, body and fins uniformly blackish brown, head darker; mouth cavity pale and peritoneum dark brown.

Remarks. Present materials agree well with the original description of *B. zenkevitchi* except for the length of snout. The difference between the two may be related to the loose head-skin of this species. The eye diameter in species of the genus *Bassozetus* is 2.5 or more times in the length of snout according to Cohen and Nielsen (1978). That of our fish, however, is 2.0 to 2.4 times as long as snout. They also state that a median basibranchial tooth patch is absent in *B. zenkevitchi*. Only a single specimen BSKU 19941 has an extremely short tooth patch on the right side at about the midpoint of the basibranchial. We think that the absence of the basibranchial tooth patch is an important specific character of *B. zenkevitchi*, because the shape and/or position of the patch in BSKU 19941 is unusual compared with those of the other ophidiid fishes, e.g. *Monomitopus* spp. and *Porogadus* spp., which have a single and somewhat long tooth patch positioned mesially on the basibranchial (personal observa-

Table 1. Counts and proportional measurements of *Bassozetus zenkevitchi* with those of the holotype.

	Holotype (Rass, 1955)	BSKU 19548	BSKU 19941	BSKU 22532
Locality	off Itrup I.	off Torishima I.	off Torishima I.	off Omaezaki
Depth (m)	0–2,250	2,470	2,140	2,590–2,620
TL (mm)	262	198	281	238
SL (mm)	245	184	263	224
In % of SL				
Body depth	11	13.8	12.8	12.0
Body width		5.5	6.8	6.2
Head length	16.3	18.9	18.4	18.3
Head depth	11.0	12.8	11.8	10.1
Predorsal length	15.9	18.3	17.3	16.7
Preanal length	31	33.6	36.0	34.6
Prepelvic length		6.7	5.6	6.1
Pectoral fin length	10.5	11.9	—	12.0
Pelvic fin length	6.1	—	6.8	7.4
In % of HL				
Snout length	15	21.6	21.4	24.4
Eye diameter	11.5	10.9	10.7	10.2
Interorbital width	37.5	35.5	36.1	33.2
Upper jaw length		47.4	46.9	45.6
Depth of maxillary end		14.9	14.2	14.1
Counts				
Dorsal rays	116	117	117	116
Anal rays	93	94	94	95
Caudal rays		8	9	8
Pectoral rays (left/right)	24	24/24	23/23	24/24
Pelvic rays	1	1	1	1
Branchiostegal rays	8	8	8	8
Gill rakers on 1st arch	20	4+1+18=23	4+1+18=23	4+1+20=25
Developed rakers on 1st arch	16	15	15	18
Pseudobranchial filaments		2	2	2
Vertebrae		13+51=64	13+51=64	13+51=64
Pyloric caecum		0	0	0
Scales in lateral series	20	ca. 20	ca. 21	ca. 20

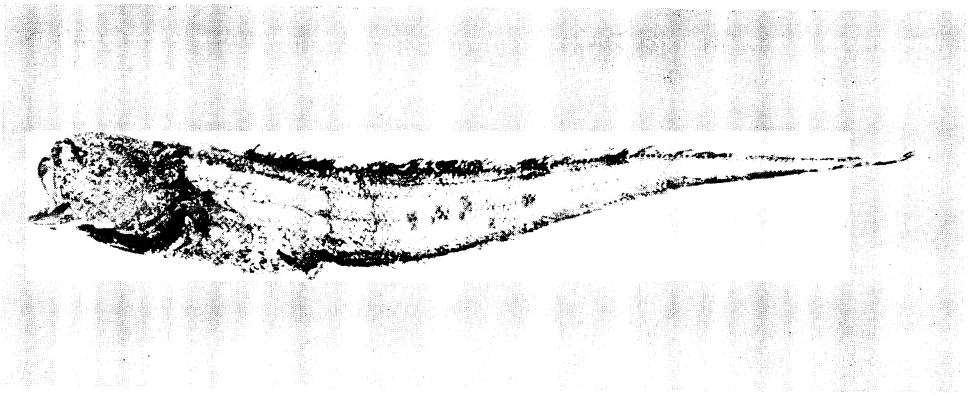

Fig. 1. Lateral aspect of *Bassozetus zenkevitchi*, BSKU 19941, 263 mm in SL.

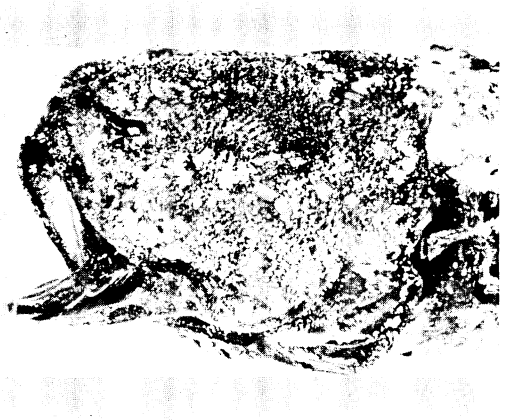

Fig. 2. Lateral aspect of head of *Bassozetus zenkevitchi*, BSKU 19941.

tion).

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日本初記録のアシロ科の1種フクメンイタチウオ（新称）

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フクメンイタチウオ *Bassozetus zenkevitchi* Rass, 1955 が鳥島沖から2個体，御前崎沖から1個体得られた．記録水深はいずれも 2,000 m を越えている．本種は千島カムチャツカ海溝から得られた1個体に基づいて記載されて以来報告例がなく，本報は第二番目の記録であり，日本から初めての記録にあたる．なお，本種の形態的特徴にちなんだ新和名を提唱した．

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