

Specimens of the family Icosteidae (Actinopterygii: Teleostei) deposited in the Department of Zoology, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo

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Abstract

Three specimens of *Icosteus aenigmaticus* Lockington, 1880 (sole species of the family Icosteidae) deposited in the Department of Zoology, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo are reported.

Introduction

Icosteus aenigmaticus Lockington, 1880, the sole species of the family Icosteidae, is characterized by a largely cartilaginous skeleton, soft body, single dorsal and anal fins with 50–56 and 33–44 soft rays, respectively, a single lateral line canal with keels of minute spines, and the maxilla margined by the premaxilla (Mecklenburg 2003; Hatooka 2013). The species, attaining a maximum standard length (SL) of ca. 2 meters, is known for significant changes in body appearance with growth, juveniles being deep-bodied with numerous distinct black spots, and well-formed pelvic fins and body scales. However, adults (individuals greater than ca. 60 cm SL) have an elongated and uniformly dark colored body, lacking pelvic fins and scales (Allen 2001; Hatooka 2018). Commonly called “ragfish”, although differing from some southern species of Centrolophidae to which the same common name has also been applied (McMillan et al. 2019), *I. aenigmaticus* has been widely recorded from the northern Pacific Ocean, from northern Japan to the Bering Sea, and along the North American coast north of southern California, USA (larvae recorded from Baja California, Mexico), the number of individuals being apparently relatively low in all areas (Fukuhara 1953; Moser et al. 1994; Allen 2001; Love et al. 2021). In Japanese waters, the species has been recorded from Hokkaido (off Kushiro City and Usujiri Town; Sasaki et al. 1989; Amaoka et al. 1989; Amaoka 1997), off Sanriku coast (Okamoto 2024), Aomori Pref. (off Misawa City and Hachinohe City; Shioyaki et al. 2004), Iwate Pref. (Funakoshi Bay, off Kamaishi City, and off Ayasato, Ofunato City; Maruyama 1971; Ida 1987; Goto 2016), Miyagi Pref. [Oyamura (currently southeastern part of Kesenuma City) and off Kesenuma City; Abe 1954, 1963], Ibaraki Pref. (off Kuji-gawa River estuary and Nakaminato, Hitachinaka City; Mochizuki et al. 1994; IMARS 2007), Chiba Pref. (Tateyama City; Hagiwara and Kimura 2005), Kanagawa Pref. (Odawara City and Manazuru Town; Abe 1954, 1963; Senou 2000), Shizuoka Pref. (Kuboda and Uyeno 1971), Mie Pref. (Owase Bay; Suzuki and Tsukada 1994), Seto Inland Sea coast of Hyogo Pref. (southwest of Kobe City; Inoue 1962), and Kochi Pref. (Urado Bay; Kamohara 1962). Additionally, larvae and juveniles have also been collected off eastern Tohoku District (Okamoto et al. 2002).

For an aid to future research, the specimens of *Icosteus aenigmaticus* (family Icosteidae) deposited in the Department of Zoology, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo are enumerated herein.

Materials and Methods

Specimens of Icosteidae in the Department of Zoology, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo (abbreviated as ZUMT) were identified during the present study, following Allen (2001) and Hatooka (2013).

Parentheses following registration numbers include standard length, collection locality, and collection date.

The ZUMT specimens listed herein were stored in shelved containers in Room 406 (specimen storage room) in the museum building (as of Sept. 2023). Although some of the ZUMT specimens, collected by Dr. Tokiharu Abe, had not been registered into the ZUMT collection, with the collection data of most missing, they are listed herein together with their ZUMT ABE number (number with underbar written on the specimen label), in the hope that Dr Abe's catalog books with collection data will be rediscovered in the future.

Results

Three non-type specimens of *Icosteus aenigmaticus* collected from Kamchatka Peninsula were confirmed in the ZUMT collection.

Species accounts

Family Icosteidae イレズミコンニャクアジ科

Icosteus aenigmaticus Lockington, 1880 イレズミコンニャクアジ

RUSSIA

ZUMT 38997 (429.0 mm; Kamchatka; donation from Pacific Fisheries Research Office, Masago, Hakodate City, Hokkaido)

LOCALITY UNKNOWN

ZUMT ABE 10150 [456.0 mm; labelled as 「北洋」 (“hokuyo”, general term for northern ocean), 1954]

ZUMT 64081 (148.8 mm; no data)

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