

A New Blennoid Fish from Hawaii

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THE GENUS *PETROSCIRTES* is one of the genera which are particularly characteristic of the Indo-Australian ichthy-fauna of the western tropical Pacific. Aside from a single dubious record, discussed below, *Petroscirtes* has not been reported from Hawaiian waters. However, the discovery of the blennoid fish described here establishes *Petroscirtes*, without doubt, as a part of the Hawaiian ichthy-fauna.

Petroscirtes ewaensis new species

Holotype. United States National Museum No. 133821, 87.4 mm. in standard length. Taken off Ewa Beach, Oahu, T. H., January 3, 1947. Caught in the open end of a pipe brought up from the bottom in 30 feet of water.

Dorsal 46. Anal 30. Pectoral 12. Pelvic (I?) 3. Body scaleless, slender, somewhat compressed, greatest depth at vent. Snout pointed, mouth inferior, gape extending approximately to middle of eye. Hind border of eye about midway in head length. Head 5.8 in standard length, depth 7.0; greatest body width 13.2; dorsal fin base 1.2, anal fin base 1.7, pectoral length 7.7, from snout tip to vent 2.7. Snout 3.4 in head length, eye 4.8, large canine tooth 5.4, interorbital 3.3, fifth dorsal fin ray 3.1. Single row of 45 incisors across front of lower jaw, with large curved canine at each side; canine received into socket in upper jaw when mouth closed. Single row of about 31 incisors across front of upper jaw; no canines present. Row of 4 short tentacles across base of chin. Row of 8 pores on top of snout from about midway between fore margin of eye and snout tip back to upper hind-

border of opercle; 1 pore just before dorsal origin; 5 or 6 pores along preopercle margin; 2 pores forward above and below and 1 behind and below eye. Dorsal origin about midway between hindborder of eye and edge of opercle. Dorsal, low and long, none of the rays elevated, not joined to caudal. Origin of pelvics about one-half their length ahead of gill opening.

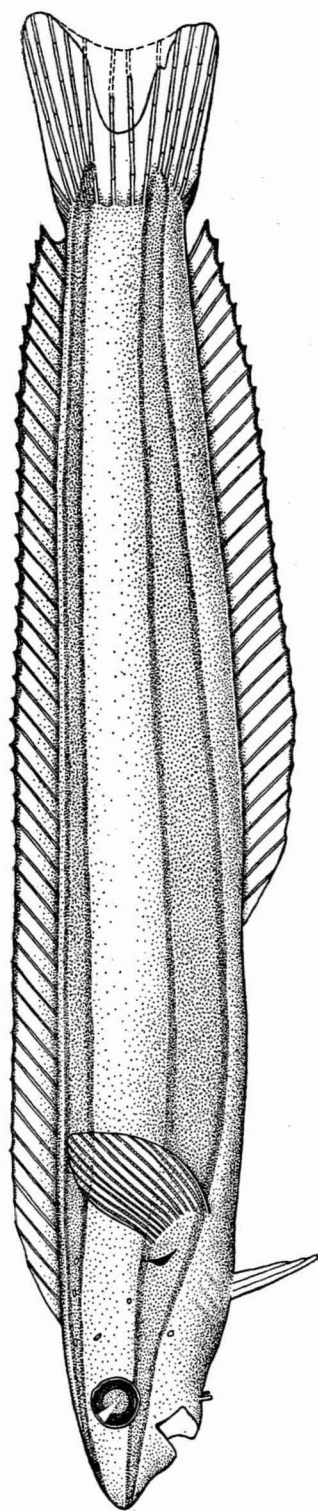
In life, general color a rich brick-red with two lateral, black-edged, iridescent blue bands. The upper band on dorsal part of side about its width below dorsal base, about equal to diameter of pupil of eye, extending from snout tip to just above eye, then back to caudal fin base and for a short distance out on caudal. The lower band, wider than diameter of eye and about as wide as interspace between it and upper band, origin on tip of snout as fine line, expands and curves beneath eye, widest about opposite vent then tapered to point on basal part of caudal. Narrow, dark-edged, iridescent blue band from snout tip along top of head to dorsal insertion. Dorsal and anal brick-red; end of rays narrowly tipped with blue. Caudal reddish, narrow blue line on upper and lower edge extending posteriorly for less than half its length. Pelvic rays faintly darkened near tips. Pectoral clear.

Color faded in preservative. Two lateral bands a slate blue with dark brownish-black margins; red interspaces faded to a dead, light grayish-white.

The name *ewaensis* is given in reference to Ewa, the district of Oahu adjacent to the place of capture.

Discussion: The discovery of this species in Hawaiian waters serves both to demonstrate fur-

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ther the basic affinity of the Hawaiian ichthyofauna with that of the Indo-Australian faunal province for which, of course, a redundancy of proof exists, and to indicate the marginal position of the Hawaiian ichthy-fauna in that province. The genus *Petroscirtes* has member species widely distributed throughout the western tropical Pacific, but aside from one dubious record [Fowler's remarks on *Petroscirtes filamentosus* (Valenciennes) (1928: 428)] no members of the genus have yet been reported from Hawaiian waters. The discovery of *P. ewa-*

ensis establishes the existence of *Petroscirtes* in the Hawaiian portion of the Indo-Australian fauna province, but as it is a new species and hence never reported from any other portion of the province, this fact may be another bit of evidence of the relative isolation of the Hawaiian portion of that province.

REFERENCE

- FOWLER, HENRY W. 1928. *The fishes of Oceania*. iii+540 p., 82 fig., 49 pl. Bernice P. Bishop Mus. Mem. 10. Honolulu.