

XIII. THE REDISCOVERY OF INOPSETTA ISCHYRA, A RARE SPECIES OF FLOUNDER.

By DEOGRACIAS V. VILLADOLID

(PLATE XXXV)

I. *Inopsetta ischyra* (Jordan & Gilbert) (1880). (Pl. XXXV, fig. 1.)

Parophrys ischyus JORDAN AND GILBERT, Proc. U. S. N. M., 1880, p. 276 and 453;

JORDAN AND GILBERT, Proc. U. S. N. M., 1881, p. 67.

Pleuronichthys ischyus JORDAN AND GILBERT, Synopsis, 1883, p. 832.

Inopsetta ischyra JORDAN, Cat. Fishes N. A., 1885, p. 136; JORDAN AND GOSS, Rev. Flounders & Soles, 1889, p. 284; JORDAN AND EVERMANN, Bull. U. S. N. M., 1889, p. 2641 (text).

Type: *Parophrys ischyus* Jordan & Gilbert (1880).

Type locality: Puget Sound.

Inopsetta ischyra (Jordan & Gilbert) was first described in 1880 from four specimens taken from the waters of Puget Sound. Since that time no specimens of the species were found until September, 1926, when the writer collected three apparently mature female examples from the region, whence the type came. Two of these were obtained from the Seattle fish-markets on September 13, 1926, and the other from Holmes Harbor, Puget Sound, at a depth of twenty-five to thirty fathoms on September 16, 1926.

By an unfortunate misunderstanding the drawing representing *Inopsetta ischyra* included in Jordan and Evermann "Fishes of North and Middle America" belongs to another species.* The drawing was made from a specimen No. 32913, U. S. N. M., collected by Mr. Edward W. Nelson at Unalaska. The present writer examined the specimen, No. 32913, referred to above, and found it apparently to be a small, shrivelled, example of *Lepidopsetta bilineata*. A detailed description of this flounder is included at the end of this paper.

Upon casual examination, this flounder may be mistaken for

*Jordan and Evermann had given a list of species to be drawn to illustrate The Fishes of North and Middle America, but, by some accident instead of selecting one of the three types, larger fishes, a smaller one bearing the same label was chosen. This specimen belongs however to *Lepidopsetta* rather than to *Inopsetta*. D. S. J.

Platichthys stellatus (Starry Flounder), to which it is closely related, but may be recognized by the presence of true scales, though loosely imbricated. In *P. stellatus* the scales are modified into star-like tubercles. The distinct black and orange vertical bars in the dorsal, anal, and caudal fins of *P. stellatus* are absent in *Inopsetta ischrya* where instead faint markings are found.

Color, olive-brown; vaguely clouded with light and dark. A few black blotches on eyed side. Dorsal, anal, and caudal have rather faint black bars. Blind side white with some small round rusty spots.

Head, 3.3 to 3.6 in body; a rather rugose prominent ridge is present above the circle. Depth, 2.2 to 2.4 in body; body rhombic, oblong, tapering from the middle of the head and tail. Eye, 5.2 to 5.6 in head. The upper eye placed slightly behind the lower. Snout slightly projecting, about as long as the longitudinal diameter of the upper eye-socket. Interorbital a narrow, bony ridge, provided with rough, minute scales, higher towards the upper eye. Mouth moderate, maxillaries reaching a little past the anterior edge of the pupil; slightly twisted towards the eyed side. Teeth bluntish, close-set, incisor-like, uniserial in both jaws, those on the eyed side less developed. Dentary-articular, 2.8 to 3.0 in head; symphyseal knob present, not very prominent; the posterior bony tubercle slightly in evidence. Caudal peduncle distinct, about as long as deep, and 3.2 in head. Lateral line fairly straight with a very gradual but slight rise in front; pores of lateral line simple. Lateral line extends as far back as end of caudal and reaches forward to behind the upper eye in front, where it ends in a two-branched, short accessory dorsal branch, the anterior end reaching the fourth or fifth dorsal ray. Scales, 76 to 86 above lateral line; rather small, imperfectly imbricated, strongly ctenoid, those around the head almost stellate. Scales on blind side not so rough as in *Platichthys*. Gill-rakers rather low, widely-set, pointed, and $\left(\frac{5-6}{10-12}\right)$ in number. Vertebrae 41.

Dorsal rays 68 to 76, the fin rather low, the highest ray being less than one-half of head; dorsal inserted above middle of upper eye. Anal rays 50 to 55, the fin low, the highest ray at the middle of the fin and as long as the highest rays of the dorsal. Pre-anal spine present. Ventral normal, of six rays. Caudal rays 18 or 19, the fin truncate, wide, its length about one-fifth of body.

Known from Puget Sound. The specimen figured is No. 8332a, Carnegie Museum Catalogue of Fishes.

2. *Lepidopsetta bilineata* (Ayres). (Pl. XXXV, fig. 2.)

Inopsetta ischrya JORDAN AND EVERMANN, Bull. 47, U. S. N. M., Pl. CCCLXXVI, fig. 927 (errore).

Description of specimen No. 32913, U. S. N. M. This flounder

is apparently an immature example of *Lepidopsetta bilineata*. The length is about 13.6 cm. long, the caudal excluded; with the tail 16.4 cm.

Color in alcohol, plain reddish brown.

Head, 3.8 in body; depth, 2.0 in body. Body broadly ovate. Eyes rather large, the upper eye about 4 in head; eyes separated by a prominent bony ridge. Snout slightly projecting, chin markedly so. Mouth rather small, twisted towards the blind side; maxillaries reaching to almost the middle of lower pupil. Teeth uniserial in both jaws, short, conical, little compressed, and bluntish. Dentary-articular 2.5 in head; symphyseal knob present; the posterior bony tubercle not much in evidence. Caudal peduncle rather distinct, about as long as pectoral on blind side and slightly longer than its depth. Lateral line prominent, with a short, low, but distinct arch in front. Pores of lateral line simple. Dorsal accessory branch of the lateral line distinctly two-branched. Scales 82 above lateral line; rough on the eyed side; those on the head and thereabouts are roughest. Scales on blind side smooth. Scales on both sides moderately imbricate. Gill-rakers few, low, and weak; about 4 + 5 in number. Dorsal with 77 rays, inserted above a point just a little past the middle of the upper pupil, low, its highest rays on middle portion of the fin. Anal, with 57 rays; fins low, highest rays on middle portion of fin. Pre-anal spine present, very distinct. Pectorals with twelve rays, about one-half in head; that on the eyed side about 1.4 times longer than its mate. Ventrals, 6 rays; normal; middle rays slightly produced; slightly shorter than length of head.

This specimen from Unalaska was collected by Edward W. Nelson.



Villadolid, Deogracias V. 1927. "The re-discovery of *Inopsetta ischyra*, a rare species of flounder." *Annals of the Carnegie Museum* 17(3-4), 395–397.

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