

individuals still had much less intense coloring than agouti animals. The dark-rump color phase may be similar to the "blackish" color phase found by Harper (1961) in *C. gapperi* in central Ungava Peninsula.

The dark phase (proteus) in *Clethrionomys* deserves further attention as a genetic marker because of its obvious phenotype. Such a natural marker could be used to measure changes in the genetic composition of populations between years, particularly in northern *C. gapperi* populations where 25% or more of the animals may be proteus.

I am indebted to T. H. Manning for bringing Zimmerman's paper to my attention and for his comments on the manuscript.

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First Record of Atka Mackerel, *Pleurogrammus monopterygius* (Hexagrammidae), in British Columbia

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Pleurogrammus monopterygius (Pallas) is a mid-water greenling (Hexagrammidae) of commercial and sporting value in Soviet (Ruttenberg 1954) and Alaskan waters (Evermann and Goldsborough 1907; Scheffer 1959). Although usually called Atka mackerel (Miller and Lea 1972, p. 116; Quast and Hall 1972, p. 19), a name recognized in the American Fisheries Society's, *A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes* (Bailey et al. 1970, p. 57), the name forktail greenling appears in recent literature (Fitch and Lavenberg 1973, p. 131). Previous known distribution for the species is from southeastern Alaska to the Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan (Quast and Hall 1972) and Monterey, California (Miller and Lea 1972). Although its occurrence in British Columbia was expected, there are no documented records. Even though abundant in parts of its geographic range, adequate numbers of specimens for meristic studies are lacking in North American museums (Quast 1964).

On 24 August 1976 a specimen 126 mm in standard length was captured after an overnight set of experimental gill nets at the south end of Hunger Harbour, Tasu Sound, Queen Charlotte Islands (52°45'12" N, 132°01'23" W) by staff of the British Columbia Provincial Museum. The nets were 1.8 m (6 ft) in height and were fished on the bottom between 12.2 m (40 ft) and 36.6 m (120 ft) below 0 tide level. Identification was based on its unnotched dorsal fin, forked tail, and five separate lateral lines. There are 20 spinous dorsal, 26 soft dorsal, 24 anal, and 25 pectoral fin rays on the specimen. The second lateral line had 149 pores and another 16 on the caudal fin. The first, second, and fifth lateral lines terminated posterior to the caudal peduncle. The third lateral line terminated above the 18th anal ray and the fourth ended opposite the tip of the depressed pelvic rays; however, there was a tendency for the fourth to merge with the fifth lateral line on the left side rather than overlap the third as illustrated by Ruttenberg (1955). This specimen

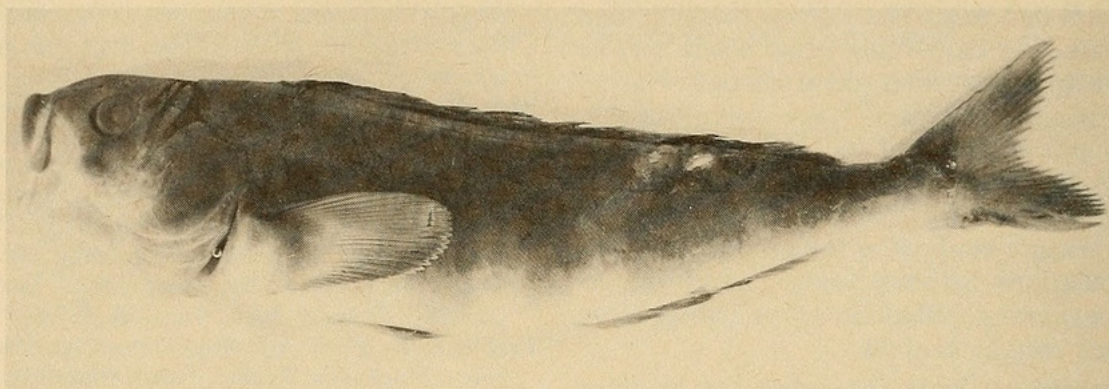


FIGURE 1. The first specimen of *Pleurogrammus monopterygius* (BCPM 976-1389) from Canadian waters.

(British Columbia Provincial Museum catalogue number BCPM 976-1389) is illustrated in Figure 1 and provides the first published record of Atka mackerel for British Columbia waters.

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Apparent Distraction Display by a Barred Owl

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On 18 June 1976 we were searching a section of mixed hardwood forest in Hudson, Quebec for the nest and young of a pair of Barred Owls (*Strix varia*). As we approached the nest vicinity, the female owl, identified by her higher-pitched voice as compared to that of the male heard on earlier occasions, made her presence known to us by emitting calls described by

Eckert and Karalus (1974) as "hoo - hoooo hoo-WAAHHHHhhh, gradually fading away." She appeared relatively unafraid and remained perched about 20 m high in a beech tree (*Fagus grandifolia*) maintaining a close watch on us. The male, however, was not observed on this date. Shy versus aggressive behavior towards intruders in the nest area appears to



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