



*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## A SECOND OCCURRENCE OF *ERILEPIS* IN AMERICAN WATERS

Although the giant bass-like fish, *Erilepis zonifer*, was described for the first time from Monterey Bay on the coast of California, it has never since been recorded from American waters, and it has come to be regarded as a stray from Japan, where it is of rather common occurrence, having been occasionally seen by Doctor Jordan and Professor Snyder in their explorations of Japan. It is of great interest, then, to find it, perhaps as a stray, in the waters of Alaska.

The writer had the good fortune to see the specimen in a frozen condition at Prince Rupert, just as it had been landed from one of the halibut schooners, the "Mallola." According to the members of the crew, it had been caught in Southeastern Alaska, in one of the long inland straits which form the "Inside Passage," either in Frederick Sound or Chatham Straits. There is no reason to doubt the fact that the fish came from that locality, as it could not have been imported from other regions, nor was the boat able to make distant trips. The winter had been a very bitter one up to that time, the last of January, and it may have been that changed conditions had led to the straying of this specimen from its usual habitat, or that the halibut fishermen had fished in unusual places.



The specimen was of a hundred pounds weight, eviscerated, but the length could not be taken at the time, although it was estimated as about four and a half or five feet. There were no points of difference in general appearance between it and the specimens from Japan and Monterey Bay, later examined, except in the absence of any dark bars on the body, which was a uniform dark color, save on the lighter ventral surface. The dorsal formula was **XI**, 16, that of the anal **III**, 14, in both fins the first spines being indistinct and buried. There were 126 series of scales along the lateral line, 31 longitudinal series above it, and 48 below. The head was contained about 3 or 3½ times in the body length, but, as measurements had to be made very roughly with the hands, they are not of much value, and may be omitted, with the statement that they conformed in



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