

**Validity of the Cottid Species *Stelgistrum mororane*
Transferred to the Genus *Icelus* (Actinopterygii:
Perciformes: Cottoidei), with Confirmed Records
of *Stelgistrum stejnegeri* from Japanese Waters**

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Stelgistrum mororane Jordan and Seale, 1906, previously synonymized with *Stelgistrum stejnegeri* Jordan and Gilbert, 1898, is here redescribed as a valid species of the genus *Icelus*. Contrary to the original description, the holotype of *S. mororane* has palatine teeth, which are diagnostic of *Icelus* but absent in *Stelgistrum*. *Icelus mororanis* comb. nov. is distinguished from all other species of *Icelus* by the following combination of characters: body relatively short; parietal spine undeveloped; subocular and supraocular spines absent; scales absent on cheek, between dorsal scale row and lateral line, and below lateral line except at pectoral axilla; small and simple cirrus present on upper rim of eye; two pairs of nuchal cirri present; and four saddles present on dorsolateral surface of body. Additionally, seven specimens of *Stelgistrum stejnegeri* collected from the Pacific coast of eastern Hokkaido are described, representing the first confirmed records of this species in Japanese waters.

Key Words: Redescription, *Icelus mororanis* comb. nov., *Stelgistrum stejnegeri*, confirmed record, Japan.

Introduction

The cottid genus *Stelgistrum* Jordan and Gilbert, 1898 is characterized by having four preopercular spines, teeth present on the jaws and vomer but absent on the palatines, one scale row on the lateral line and another scale row along the dor-