

Occurrence and Additional Specimens of a Scorpionfish, *Idiastion pacificum* (Actinopterygii: Scorpaeniformes: Scorpaenidae), from the Central North Pacific

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Two specimens (124.0–148.6 mm standard length) of a scorpionfish, *Idiastion pacificum* Ishida and Amaoka, 1992, were collected from the central North Pacific, representing the first record of the species from this area. This finding extends the distributional range of *Idiastion pacificum*, which was previously known only from the Kyushu-Palau Ridge, western North Pacific. This study provides new morphological data and a color photograph of *I. pacificum* based on these two additional specimens, with a comparison to *Idiastion kyphos* Eschmeyer, 1965.

Key Words: Teleostei, Scorpaenidae, *Idiastion pacificum*, central North Pacific, new record.

Introduction

The scorpaenid genus *Idiastion* Eschmeyer, 1965 was originally established as a member of the subfamily Scorpaeninae, on the basis of a single specimen of *Idiastion kyphos* Eschmeyer, 1965 from the Caribbean Sea. Subsequently, a second species of the genus, *Idiastion pacificum* Ishida and Amaoka, 1992, was described based on a single specimen from the Kyushu-Palau Ridge, western North Pacific. Recently a third species, *Idiastion hageyi* McCosker, 2008, was described based on a single specimen collected off Isla Fernandina, Galápagos Islands.

During a faunal study of the fishes in the central North Pacific, conducted from September to November, 2007, two specimens of a scorpionfish were collected from Koko Seamount, Emperor Seamounts, at 360–430 m depth. These specimens are identified here as *Idiastion pacificum*, which has not been reported on the basis of newly collected specimens since the original description. The present specimens represent the second record of the species, and the first from the central North Pacific. Herein we describe these two additional specimens.

Materials and Methods

Counts generally follow Motomura *et al.* (2005a), except for the scales above and below the lateral line (Motomura *et al.* 2005b) and the predorsal scale counts (Motomura *et al.*

2006b). The last two soft rays of the dorsal and anal fins are counted as single rays, each pair being associated with a single pterygiophore. Counts of preopercular spines begin with the uppermost spine. Measurements generally follow Motomura (2004a, b), except for head width (Motomura *et al.* 2005b, 2006a) and maxillary depth (Motomura *et al.* 2006b). Terminology of head spines and structures follows Randall and Eschmeyer (2002: fig. 1) and Motomura (2004b: fig. 1) with the following additions: the spine at the base of the uppermost preopercular spine is referred to as the supplemental preopercular spine (Eschmeyer 1965a); the spine on the lateral surface of the lachrymal bone is referred to as the lateral lachrymal spine (Motomura and Senou 2008: fig. 2); and the coronal and pretympenic (as an extra spine) spines are as figured in Chen (1981: fig. 1) and Motomura *et al.* (2004: fig. 14b) respectively. The terminology and formula of the supraneural bones follow Mabee (1988) and Ahlstrom *et al.* (1976) respectively. Cyanine blue was used to examine the scales on the head. Standard length is expressed as SL. The skeletal features and vertebrae were observed and counted, respectively, from radiographs. The sex and presence of a swimbladder were confirmed by dissection of the right side of the abdomen. The diagnosis of *I. pacificum* given here is based on the present two specimens from the central North Pacific and the holotype from the Kyushu-Palau Ridge (comparative material in this study).

Specimens examined in this study are deposited in the Laboratory of Marine Biology, Faculty of Science, Kochi University (BSKU), the California Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Grice Marine Laboratory (GMBL), and the Sei-