# A NEW SPECIES OF RAY FROM THE TEXAS COAST, AND REPORT OF THE OCCURRENCE OF A TOP MINNOW NEW TO THE FAUNA OF EASTERN TEXAS.

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In a collection of fishes received from Mr. Ira P. Cox at the Houston city market there was contained a specimen of ray which proved to be a new species. Two specimens were collected off the Galveston jetties in the Gulf of Mexico at a depth of between 5 and 10 fathoms, on November 17, 1920. The larger one, unfortunately, was not preserved, but the smaller one, a female, was sent to the Rice Institute with some other fishes. Examination showed that this species did not conform to any of those described by Jordan and Evermann, and no species to which it conforms could be found in the literature since the publication of Jordan and Evermann's work in 1896. My hearty thanks are due to Prof. C. H. Gilbert, of Stanford University, for assistance in looking up this literature.

The ray in question apparently occupies a position intermediate between *R. eglanteria* of the Atlantic coast of the United States and *R. ackleyi* of the Yucatan banks, but differs from both these species in color and minor structural characteristics.

RAIA TEXANA, new species.

TEXAS RAY.

Disk, including ventrals, about as long as broad, 12¾ inches in width in the type specimen, the total length 20½ inches; widest region of disk very slightly behind middle. Posterior edge of pectorals convex, the anterior edge concave.

Snout somewhat produced, its angle acute but bluntly rounded at tip. A broad, rhomboid, translucent, unpigmented space at either side of snout, the width between pigmented areas at sides equal to distance from tip of snout to eye; interorbital space concave, not quite 3 in this distance. Long diameter of eye 2½ in interorbital space. Spiracles larger than eyes and directly behind them. Mouth opposite a point just behind middle of eye. Nostrils small, their distance from corners of mouth about half the width of the

mouth and in line with the corners of the mouth. Teeth in 50 rows in each jaw; the lateral teeth flat, the cusps becoming higher and sharper towards the median line.

Entire under surface of head except just behind mouth covered with small spines, these very dense and forming a heavy shagreen towards tip of snout. Small spines on most of under surface of trunk, but sparse on abdomen behind pectoral girdle, and absent on under surfaces of pectoral and pelvic fins, tail, and ring around vent. Very fine spines on upper surface of rostral cartilage, head, anterior parts of pectoral fins, anterior part of trunk, and anterior third of tail. Upper surface of pectorals with very minute sparse spines, except distally, where they are smooth; pelvics smooth. A median series of larger spines along middle line of back and tail, these large between shoulders, small on middle of back, and larger again on rump and tail. Two lateral rows of irregularly alternating large and small curved spines on tail, and a J shaped row of larger spines bordering orbit anteriorly and medially, these extending back to middle of spiracle.

Tail 10 inches in length from vent to tip, without lateral cutaneous folds. Dorsal fins of moderate size, separated by a space somewhat less than the length of either one; dorsal row of spines continued between them.

Color uniform rich brown above, except translucent area at sides of snout. A single conspicuous, eye-like black spot, with well-marked pale yellow border, on pectoral fins, slightly behind broadest point and somewhat nearer middle line of body than edge of pectoral fin. Under surface plain white.

*Type.*—Cat. No. 84162, U.S.N.M.

*Locality.*—Off Galveston jetties, Gulf of Mexico.

While dredging with a small net in a weedy pool in the coast prairie at Hardin, Liberty County, Texas, a single small specimen of top minnow (*Zygonectes henshalli*), 4 cm. in length, was obtained on January 8, 1921. This specimen conforms in every detail with the species as described by Jordan from the San Sebastian River in Southern Florida. The species has not hitherto been recorded outside of Florida, but its occurrence in the coast prairie of eastern Texas would indicate its existence along the entire Gulf coast from Florida to Texas. This specimen has been deposited in the United States National Museum.