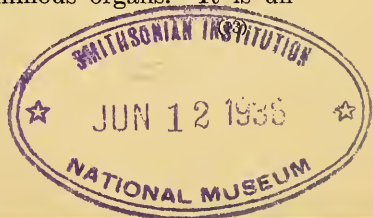


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF LUMINOUS
LIZARD FISH, SCOPELOSAURUS SMITHII, FROM
OFF THE COAST OF BRAZIL.

BY BARTON A. BEAN.

On returning from Argentina, in December, 1922, Dr. Hugh M. Smith, of Washington, was handed a "Rare Fish" which had been brought aboard the steamer by a large suction hose, and upon examination I find it to belong to Dr. Bleeker's genus, *Scopelosaurus* described in 1860 from a specimen taken off the coast of Amboina, the type (*S. hoedti*) being preserved in the Leiden Museum. This type has been redescribed and figured in the Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago, II, by Dr. Max Weber, and Dr. L. F. de Beaufort, Leiden, 1913, pages 175 and 176. The genus has an elongate, well-rounded body with the snout long and pointed; a prominent lower jaw, the wide mouth being superiorly bordered by the intermaxillary and having the intermaxillary situated above it. The dorsal fin slightly behind middle of body; ventrals forward, anal in the beginning of the posterior one-fourth of the length. The narrow adipose fin above last anal rays; pectorals situated in the middle of the height of the body. Three rows of scales intervening between the opercle and its origin. The caudal forked; teeth small, a single series on intermaxillary, palatines and vomer; several series on the mandible, none on tongue. Lateral line straight; scales cycloid, head scaleless. Bleeker described this genus as having three ventral series of luminous organs between isthmus and anal. Drs. Weber and de Beaufort state that they could not make out on the type specimen, which is in a bad state of preservation if these three rows as mentioned by Bleeker really are luminous organs. It is un-



fortunate that our specimen is in pretty much the same condition. The organs are very difficult of detection, even with the aid of a glass. Some few, however, are present.

Scopelosaurus smithii, new species.

The head is contained $3\frac{2}{3}$ times in the standard body length; eye four in head, its long diameter slightly exceeding the width of the interorbital space. Depth of body $2\frac{1}{2}$ in head; pectoral long, almost one-fifth length of body.

Dorsal 11; anal 18; scales in the lateral series about 60; caudal fin deeply incised, its lobes filamentous. Owing to the manner of capture the scales are mostly wanting. The color must have been a deep purplish black. The species here briefly described is well differentiated from its Indo-Pacific relative, by the longer head, larger eye, longer pectorals and caudal rays.

The total length of the type, 190 mm., is divided as follows: Length of head, 45 mm; body from end of head to middle caudal rays, 120 mm.; caudal, 25 mm. The type is No. 86676, U. S. National Museum. Captured off the coast of Brazil.

I take pleasure in naming this remarkable fish for my friend Dr. Hugh M. Smith, who preserved the same for us.