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| Length of snout from mouth..... | .22 |
| Length of nostrils..... | .07 |
| Width of anterior nasal flap..... | .06 |
| Length of nasal flap..... | .04 |
| Distance from snout to first dorsal..... | 1.565 |
| Length of base of first dorsal..... | .095 |
| Height of first dorsal..... | .18 |
| Interval between dorsals..... | .155 |
| Length of second dorsal..... | .10 |
| Height of second dorsal..... | .19 |
| Height of caudal..... | .175 |
| Length of upper portion of caudal..... | .455 |
| Distance from snout to end of base of pectoral..... | .83 |
| Length of base of ventrals..... | .28 |
| Width of ventrals..... | .20 |
| Length of claspers..... | .36 |

The type of this species, an adult male, was taken at Santa Barbara, Cal., February 8, 1880, by A. Laro, an Italian fisherman. It is numbered —— in the collection of the United States National Museum. Mr. Laro states that this species is not uncommon about Santa Barbara in spring and summer.

This species is probably related to *Platyrrhina sinensis*, but it has little affinity with *Platyrrhina crasperata*, already described by us, from San Diego. In color, form of tail, and character of the dermal covering it resembles the *Rhinobatidae*, and its affinities with *Syrhina*, of the latter "family," are evident.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF "ROCK COD" (*SEBASTICHTHYS SERRICEPS*), FROM THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

Body rather robust, heavy forwards, compressed behind, the caudal peduncle short and rather slender. Head large. Mouth large, rather oblique, the maxillary reaching to opposite the middle of the eye; the premaxillary anteriorly on the level of the orbit; jaws about equal, in the closed mouth; teeth, as usual, in villiform bands on the jaws, vomer, and palatines.

Top of head with the spinous ridges very thick and strong, their tips bluntish, turned upward and outward; the spines on each side placed nearly in a right line, so that the edge of the crown seems somewhat regularly serrated.

The following pairs of spines are present: nasal, preocular, supraocular, tympanic, occipital, and nuchal. The coronal spines (found in *S. auriculatus* and *S. ruber*) are wanting in this species, as are the postocular spines (usually present in *S. pinniger*). Interorbital space between the spines narrow, flat, and coarsely scaled (the elevated ridges found in *S. nigrocinctus* being wanting). The tympanic spines are

stronger than in related species. The nuchal spines are as usual placed close behind the occipital.

Preorbital bone rather broad, with a single obsolete spine directed downward. Preopercle with five rather short and bluntish spines, the second the larger, the three lower quite small. Opercle with two bluntish, diverging spines. A blunt spine on the shoulder girdle above the pectorals; two sharp suprascapular spines. Subopercle and lower edge of opercle each with a blunt point. Preorbital scaly below. Maxillary naked.

Eye rather large, its diameter about one-quarter the length of the head.

Gill-rakers clavate, short, stiff, compressed, armed with bristly teeth above and within. There are about thirty of them in all, those nearest the middle of the arch longest and most perfect, the others gradually growing smaller and incomplete. About half of them have the posterior edge free. The longest is about one-third the length of the eye ($\frac{1}{5}$ in *S. melanops*; $\frac{2}{5}$ in *S. pinniger*). In form they are midway between the tubercle-like gill-rakers of "*Sebastosomus*" (*S. melanops*) and the long and slender gill-rakers in "*Sebastomus*" (*S. pinniger*, *flavidus*, *auriculatus*, etc.).

Branchiostegals 7, the gill membranes, as in other species, little united, without isthmus.

Scales moderate, essentially as in *S. fuscatus* and related species. Lateral line with 55 scales.

Dorsal fin with strong spines, the fourth to seventh highest and subequal, the lowest more than half the height of the highest. Soft dorsal rather higher than any of the spines. Caudal fin broad, rounded. Anal fin with the second spine robust, about as long as the third and much stronger, the soft rays high.

Pectoral broad and rounded, its base deep, nearly one-third the length of the head, its lower rays thickened as in *S. melanops*, its tips reaching just past the vent. Ventrals falling just short of the front of anal.

Fin rays: D. XII, 1, 13; A. III, 5.

General color dark olive, blackish on the head and back, the sides somewhat yellowish; sides of body with black cross-bands which are somewhat oblique; these bands are usually distinct, but are sometimes nearly obsolete in dark-colored examples. The first band runs downward from front of dorsal across base of pectoral; the second from near the middle of spinous dorsal to behind the ventrals; the third from the posterior part of the dorsal to the vent; the fourth and fifth above the anal, and the sixth at base of caudal. Another black bar extends across the scapular region and the opercular spines, and two bands radiate from the eye, obliquely downward and backward. Belly dusky greenish; fins blackish, with a strong olive tinge.

Lips, mouth, *front and lower part of the head*, with a strong wash of

coppery *red*, this color fading out on the thoracic region. Base of fins and different parts of the body sometimes with obscure small whitish spots.

Measurements.

(No. ———, United States National Museum, from Santa Barbara.)

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| Extreme length | 10.40 inches. |
| Length to base of caudal | 8.70 inches = 1.00 |
| Greatest depth | .38 |
| Least depth | .11 |
| Length of head | .35 |
| Diameter of eye | .085 |
| Length of snout | .10 |
| Width of interorbital area | .055 |
| Length of supraocular ridge | .05 |
| Length of occipital ridge | .06 |
| Length of maxillary | .18 |
| Distance from snout to dorsal | .325 |
| Length of base of dorsal | .57 |
| Height of longest spine | .13 |
| Height of longest ray | .155 |
| Length of base of anal | .135 |
| Height of second spine | .14 |
| Height of longest ray | .22 |
| Length of caudal | .205 |
| Width of base of pectoral | .11 |
| Length of pectoral | .265 |
| Length of ventral | .24 |

This species is found in great abundance about the island of Santa Catalina, where eight examples were obtained by the writers. Another was taken at Santa Barbara, where the species is considered rare by the fishermen. It seems to be intermediate between the still rougher-headed *S. nigrocinctus*, on the one hand, and the smoother *S. fuscatus* and *S. melanops* on the other.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF CEPHALOSCYLLIUM LATICEPS (DUMÉRIE) GILL, ON THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

While we were engaged in making collections on the coast of Los Angeles County, California, a shark was described to us by a Wilmington fisherman as having the habit when caught of filling himself with air "till he was big as a barrel," so that if thrown back in the water he would float away on the surface, belly upward, etc., exactly after the fashion of the species of *Tetrodon*. On cross-questioning, the fisherman assured us that the animal was a genuine shark, with the mouth underneath and many sharp teeth, and that he had frequently taken them near Wilmington.

At last one of these animals was brought in to us by a fisherman