NOTE ON OXYCOTTUS ACUTICEPS (GILBERT) FROM SITKA AND KADIOK, ALASKA.

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The genus Oxycottus, Jordan and Evermann, based upon Oligocottus acuticeps of Gilbert, has been considered as nearly related to Blennicottus of Gill. None of the descriptions of Blennicottus, so far as we have observed, make mention of the forward insertion of the vent, which is, however, subject to individual variation.

We have examined the typical specimens of Blennicottus globiceps, the description and illustration of Oligocottus embryum, since referred to Oxycottus by Jordan and Evermann, and also a number of specimens of O. acuticeps from Sitka and Kadiak, Alaska.

Oxycottus acuticeps differs markedly from B. globiceps in the shape of the head and in the structure of the preopercular spine. It is remarkable also for the large size of the genital papilla of the male, which is roughly three-lobed at the extremity, and for the very advanced position of the vent, which is close behind the ventrals. Judging from the illustration accompanying the original description of Oligocottus embryum Jordan and Starks, that species appears to be more nearly related to Blennicottus globiceps than to Oxycottus acuticeps, having a rather short, declivous snout, a thin, flat preopercular spine, and a genital papilla smaller than in acuticeps and, apparently, simple at the tip, while its position is less advanced than in acuticeps.

The largest examples of O. acuticeps so far examined by us are females from Sitka, measuring 2½ inches in length. The only males examined by us are two examples from Sitka; these measure 1¾ and 1½ inches. The larger of these males has a genital papilla ½ inch long and more than ¼ inch in diameter at the base. It is located almost immediately behind the ventrals. B. globiceps has a small, slender papilla.
The U.S.N.M. catalogue numbers of the Alaskan examples are: 24083, Kadiak, W. H. Dall, 3 females; 27515, Sitka, T. H. Bean, 4 females and 1 male; 48873, Sitka, T. H. Bean, 1 male.

The radial formula of the Sitkan examples is as follows: B. VI; D. VIII, 14 to 16; A. 12 to 13; V. 3; P. 13 to 14. Tubes 33.

The synonymy should read:
