

# NOTE ON OXYCOTTUS ACUTICEPS (GILBERT) FROM SITKA AND KADIAK, 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  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. The only males examined by us are two examples from Sitka; these measure  $1\frac{3}{8}$  and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches. The larger of these males has a genital papilla  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long and more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  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:

*Oligocottus acuticeps* GILBERT, Rept. U. S. Fish Commission, 1893 (1896), p. 432; Unalaska, Steamer *Albatross*.

*Oxygottus acuticeps* (GILBERT) JORDAN and EVERMANN, Bull. 47, U. S. Nat. Mus., Pt. 2, p. 2015.