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THREE NEW SCORPIONFISHES OF THE GENERA *PONTINUS*, *PHENACOSCORPIUS* AND *IDIASTION* FROM THE WESTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN[1]

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ABSTRACT

Three new species of scorpionfishes are described: *Pontinus helena* from off Venezuela, *Phenacoscorpius nebris* from the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, and *Idiastion kyphos* from the southeastern Caribbean Sea. The genus *Idiastion* is described as new. *Phenacoscorpius nebris* represents the first record of this Indo-Pacific genus in the Atlantic Ocean. Nomenclatural problems in the genus *Pontinus* are discussed and three nominal genera are synonymized with *Pontinus*.

INTRODUCTION

Recent shipments of specimens collected by the United States Bureau of Commercial Fisheries vessels OREGON and SILVER BAY have provided much material for my current studies on the family Scorpaenidae. Included among the specimens received are three new forms described in this paper.

The three new species are in the subfamily Scorpaeninae as defined by Matsubara (1943: 265-266). *Phenacoscorpius nebris* represents the first record of this Indo-Pacific genus in the Atlantic Ocean; the new Atlantic species is known from three specimens, two from the northern Gulf of Mexico and one from the southern Caribbean Sea. The genus *Pontinus* is circumtropical, but several nominal genera exist and nomenclatural problems are unsettled; these are discussed. Four species of *Pontinus* are currently recognized in the western part of the Atlantic Ocean. A fifth and new species, *Pontinus helena,* is described from two specimens from the Caribbean Sea off Venezuela. The third new form represents a new genus *Idiastion. Idiaston kyphos* is described from a specimen collected in the Caribbean Sea off Venezuela from 320-340 fathoms, a depth at which fishes of this family are rare.

Methods and terminology used in this paper follow those described by Eschmeyer (1965: 86-88). Most are similar to measurements normally

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used to describe fish specimens with the following exceptions: measurements originating from the anterior end of the snout are taken from the most anterior end of the left premaxilla because of the presence of a notch of variable depth at the junction of the premaxillae; length of the pectoral fin is measured from the base of the upper ray to the apex.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank Harvey R. Bullis, Jr., Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base, Pascagoula, Mississippi, for his continued support in providing material. The new forms described here bring to seven the number of new scorpaenids collected by vessels of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the last few years. Their use of a wide variety of gear and sampling of many bottom conditions, especially rough-bottom areas, has increased the knowledge of western Atlantic scorpionfishes greatly.

C. Richard Robins (Marine Laboratory, University of Miami) and Bruce B. Collette (Ichthyological Laboratory, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.) offered suggestions on the manuscript. Dr. Collete also provided information on the types of *Phenacoscorpius megalops* and *Nemapontinus tentacularus* for which I am grateful. Frederick M. Bayer (Marine Laboratory, University of Miami) helped with preparation of the drawings. Dr. P. H. Greenwood and Mr. G. Palmer of the British Museum (Natural History) were of assistance during my visit to London. I acknowledge the material support of a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries fellowship. This report is also part of a program of research supported by the National Science Foundation through grant GB-1350, C. Richard Robins principal investigator.

Phenacoscorpius Fowler

Phenacoscorpius Fowler, 1938: 69-70 (type-species *Phenacoscorpius megalops* Fowler by original designation and monotypy).—Smith, 1957: 69 (compiled).

Diagnosis.—Dorsal rays XI + I, 9; anal rays III, 5; pelvic rays I, 5; pectoral rays 15-17, some rays branched. Teeth on dentary, premaxillary, vomer, and phayryngeal bones; present in a small patch or absent on palatine bones. Spines on head strongly developed; preopercle with supplemental, first, third, fourth, and fifth spines present, second absent. Scales ctenoid on body. Lateral-line incomplete, only three to six tubed scales present behind head. (Smith, 1958, reported a few odd scattered tubules behind the short continuous series of lateral-line scales in *P. nebulosus.*) Vertebrae 25 in *P. nebris* and *P. megalops,* swim bladder present in *P. nebris* (these characters not determined in other species). Second suborbital bone not T-shaped, gradually becoming wider posteriorly.

Remarks.—The genus was not treated by Matsubara (1943) but is refer-

able to his subfamily Scorpaeninae. The presence of only a few lateral-line scales behind the head distinguishes this genus from other scorpaenid genera. Most species in the subfamily Scorpaeninae have 24 vertebrae, but *Phenacoscorpius* and *Idiastion* have 25.

Three species have been known until now: *P. megalops* Fowler (1938: 70-71) from the Philippine Islands and the East Indies, *P. adenensis* Norman (1939: 94) from the Gulf of Aden, and *P. nebulosus* Smith (1958: 177) from the east coast of Africa. Apparently, all species are known from only the type specimens. Smith's *P. nebulosus* may be the most generalized species if it does belong to this genus. *P. nebulosus* is reported to have scattered lateral-line tubules present posteriorly to the continuous series of 5-6; the mottled and barred color pattern suggests a shallow-water habitat. The remaining species are offshore bottom fishes known from about 35-300 fathoms. A vertebral count of 25 would enhance placement of *P. nebulosus* in this genus. All species except *P. megalops* have a small patch of teeth on the palatine bones; they are absent in *P. megalops*.

Phenacoscorpius nebris, new species
Fig. 1; Table 1

Holotype.—USNM 260470-F2, formerly UMML 14358, a specimen 84.2 mm in standard length (Fig. 1c), Peninsula de Guajira, Venezuela, Lat. 12°46′N, Long. 70°59′W in 190 fathoms, OREGON sta. 4396, 40-foot shrimp trawl, 26 Sept. 1963.

Paratypes.—UMML 16163, two specimens, 59.0 mm (Fig. 1b) and 46.1 mm (Fig. 1a), Gulf of Mexico, west of Mississippi Delta, Lat. 28°38′N, Long. 90°33.5′W in 35 fathoms, OREGON sta. 4780, fish trap, 12 March 1964.

Description.—Measurements and counts are summarized in Table 1, and body shape and coloration are illustrated in Figure 1.

Pectoral rays 16 (2 specimens) or 17 (1 specimen); upper one or two rays unbranched, next three to six branched, with lower rays unbranched; upper and lower pectoral rays short with middle rays long. Spines on head well developed. Nasal, preocular, supraocular, postocular, frontal, anterior and posterior parietal, postorbital, pterotic, lower posttemporal, opercular, supracleithral, cleithral, suborbital, and preopercular spines present. Preopercle with supplemental, first, third, fourth, and fifth spines well developed, second absent. Suborbital ridge with 5-6 spinous points. Preorbital bone with 2 spinous points over maxilla, first rounded and second broadly pointed. Vertebrae 25. Swim bladder present. Teeth on dentary, premaxillary, vomer, palatine, and phayryngeal bones; teeth on palatine in a small raised pad about one-fifth of orbit diameter.

Scales thin, ctenoid on body, with ctenii on exposed margin in single

row; cheek, occiput, and pectoral base scaly; scales on cheek and belly cycloid. Lateral-line scales tubed, only 3-5 present. (The specimens are

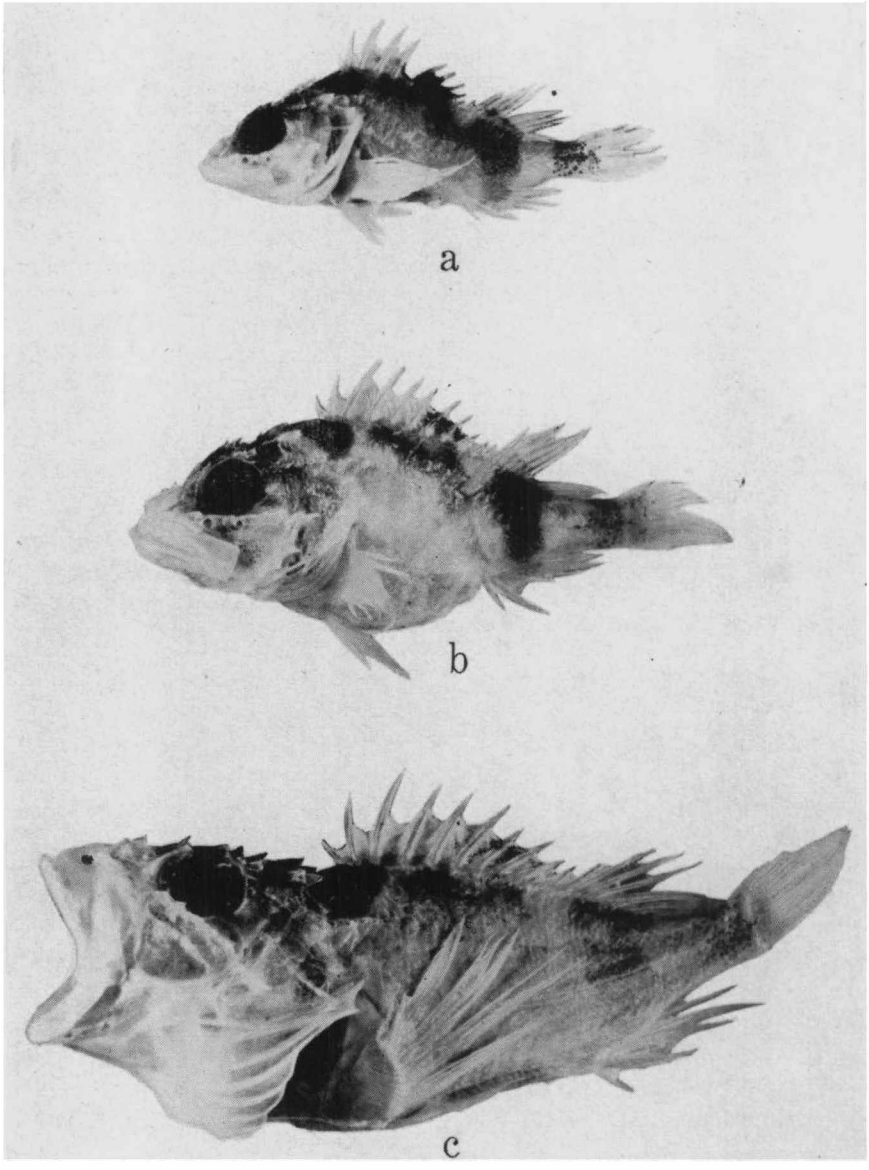

FIGURE 1. *Phenacoscorpius nebris*.—a. Paratype, 46.1 mm in standard length, UMML 16163.—b. Paratype, 59.0 mm, UMML 16163.—c. Holotype, 84.2 mm, USNM 260470-F2.

TABLE 1

COUNTS AND MEASUREMENTS OF THE TYPE SPECIMENS OF *Phenacoscorpius nebris*, *Pontinus helena*, AND *Idiastion kyphos*. (NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES ARE PERCENTAGES OF STANDARD LENGTH; MEASUREMENTS ARE IN MILLIMETERS.)

	Phenacoscorpius nebris			*Pontinus helena*		*Idiastion kyphos*
	USNM 260470-F2 Holotype	UMML 16163 Paratype	UMML 16163 Paratype	USNM 260470-F3 Holotype	UMML 16165 Paratype	USNM 260470-F1 Holotype
Standard length	84.2	59.0	46.1	203	186	105
Dorsal rays	11+1,9	11+1,9	11+1,9	11+1,10	11+1,9	11+1,9
Anal rays	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5	3,5
Pectoral rays (left/right)	17/17	16/16	16/16	20/19	19/19	18/18
Vertebrae	25	25	25	24	24	25
Gill rakers (upper/lower)						
left	6/15	6/14	6/15	*	*	6/12
right	5/14	6/14	6/15	*	*	5/13
Head length	39.1 (46)	27.2 (46)	21.6 (48)	98.7 (49)	88.5 (48)	50.3 (48)
Snout length	11.1 (13)	7.4 (13)	5.4 (12)	29.1 (14)	25.5 (14)	12.5 (12)
Orbit diameter	10.6 (13)	7.5 (13)	6.3 (14)	25.1 (12)	23.6 (13)	14.5 (14)
Interorbital width	3.3 (04)	3.0 (05)	2.1 (05)	10.2 (05)	8.6 (05)	5.8 (05)
Upper jaw length	19.6 (23)	13.5 (23)	10.2 (22)	50.0 (25)	42.8 (23)	25.4 (24)
Predorsal fin length	33.5 (40)	25.2 (43)	20.5 (44)	89.4 (44)	78.4 (42)	49.7 (47)
Body depth	31.5 (37)	23.5 (40)	16.1 (35)	71.8 (35)	68.5 (37)	41.2 (39)
Pectoral fin length	26.6 (32)	20.6 (35)	16.6 (36)	55.6 (27)	51.4 (28)	35.5 (34)
Pelvic fin length	18.3 (22)	13.4 (23)	— —	43.6 (21)	42.1 (23)	25.6 (24)
Caudal fin length	20.7 (25)	15.4 (26)	12.5 (27)	54.9 (27)	51.0 (27)	24.7 (23)

*Not countable, see text under account of this species.

in good condition, and though the scales are delicate, few scales appear to have been lost.) Gill rakers short; 5-6 gill rakers on upper arch, increasing in size to angle; 14-15 gill rakers on lower arch, longest at angle, decreasing in size from angle.

The color pattern is shown in Figure 1. The melanin present below translucent scales; dark pigment concentrated in four areas on body, a saddle-shaped patch at the dorsal-fin origin, a patch below the middle dorsal spines, a bar between the soft dorsal fin and anal fin, and a band at the caudal base. The pigment at the base of the caudal fin composed of large conspicuous melanophores. All specimens with a dark patch on membrane of spinous dorsal fin, more concentrated between the fifth and ninth spines and better marked in smaller specimens.

Etymology.—The name is from the Latin meaning spotted like a fawn, alluding to the pigmentation in this species.

Remarks.—*Phenacoscorpius nebris* agrees with *P. adenensis* and *P. nebulosus* in body shape and presence of a small patch of teeth on the palatines. *Phenacoscorpius nebris* agrees with *P. megalops* in the presence of a dark blotch on the spinous dorsal fin. Although *P. nebulosus* has a mottled and barred color pattern, the other two known species are pale yellowish-brown in preservative, and *P. nebris* is predominantly pallid. All four species differ from other scorpaenids in having the lateral-line incomplete, with only a few tubed scales present behind the head. Most species in the subfamily Scorpaeninae normally have 24 vertebrae while species of *Phenacoscorpius* (at least those examined) and *Idiastion* have 25.

Pontinus Poey

Pontinus Poey, 1860: 172 (type-species *Pontinus castor* Poey [see remarks]).

Remarks.—No generic synonymy is included because of certain nomenclatural problems and a need for world revision. One problem involves *Sebastes nematophthalmus* Günther (1860: 99) described from two specimens, one from the "Ile de France?" and another from the West Indies. On examination of the specimens in the British Museum it was found that two species were represented. A 14-inch stuffed specimen with branched pectoral rays is from Ile de France? [now Mauritius], and the smaller second specimen with unbranched pectoral rays (a characteristic of *Pontinus*) is from the West Indies. Günther (1880: 52) reported a third specimen collected by the CHALLENGER in the Philippine Islands. Herre (1951: 411) referred the species *nematophthalmus* to the genus *Merinthe* (with unbranched pectoral rays) but stated, "Only the type, 14 inches long, and the specimen taken by the Challenger Expedition are known." Herre's statement does not constitute lectotype designation and reflects his failure to recognize that two specimens were included in the

original description. Ginsburg (1953: 51) restricted the species by lectotype designation to the specimen from the West Indies and placed the name in synonymy of *Pontinus castor*. Though Günther's specimen from the West Indies is a *Pontinus* it is not *P. castor* (characterized by a long snout). The species *S. nematophthalmus* is a senior synonym of one of the other species of *Pontinus* in the western Atlantic Ocean; the stuffed specimen (from Mauritius) with branched pectoral rays has a long snout, but the West Indian specimen referable to *Pontinus* has a short snout.

Matsubara (1943: 282-283) treated the genus *Pontinus* incorrectly, ascribing to it branched pectoral rays and no swim bladder; this was due to improper identification of his specimen as *Pontinus spilistius* Gilbert (1905: 633), a species known from Hawaii. Matsubara's treatment of the genus *Merinthe* correctly defines the genus *Pontinus* based on the type-species *Pontinus castor* (with unbranched pectoral rays and a well developed swim bladder). *Merinthe* Snyder (1904: 535; type-species *Sebastes macrocephalus* Sauvage) apparently is a synonym of *Pontinus*. (The introduction of the name *Merinthe* may have been unintentional, for Snyder merely used the combination *Merinthe macrocephala* (Sauvage) without describing the genus as new and without including the name in his list of new genera and species on page 513. Jordan and Evermann (1905: 461) credit the genus to Snyder and give a short generic description. Apparently *Sebastes macrocephalus* Sauvage is the only species which has been included in *Merinthe*.)

Nemapontinus Fowler (1938: 73; type-species *Nemapontinus tentacularis* Fowler) apparently is also a synonym of *Pontinus*. Fowler distinguished *Nemapontinus* from *Pontinus* on the basis of a long supraocular tentacle in his specimens. Some specimens of *Pontinus macrolepis* from the western Atlantic have almost as long a tentacle proportionally as that of Fowler's holotype. Matsubara (1943: 288) shows that the tentacle length varies greatly in *Merinthe macrocephala*. Similarly, the holotype of Fowler's species has a tentacle almost equal to one-third of the standard length while the length of the tentacle in a slightly smaller paratype is less than 10 per cent of standard length (personal communication from Bruce B. Collette). *Nemapontinus tentacularis* possibly is a synonym of *Merinthe macrocephala* as treated by Matsubara; both however are referable to *Pontinus*. They agree in having a long supraocular tentacle, in having blotches along the side of the body, and in distribution. (Bruce B. Collette has confirmed my suspicion that Fowler wrongly stated that there were no teeth on the palatines in *Nemapontinus*.)

Poey included two species in his genus *Pontinus, P. castor* Poey and *P. pollux* Poey. This has contributed some confusion because *pollux* has branched pectoral rays. Poey questioned the affinity of *pollux* with *castor*, so *castor* stands as the type-species as it was the only on definitely referred to the genus by Poey. Subsequently, Jordan and Gilbert (1883: 669)

listed *castor* as the type-species. Ginsburg (1953: 53) placed *Pontinus pollux* in the genus *Neomerinthe* Fowler.

The genus *Sebastoplus* Gill (1863: 208; type-species *Scorpaena kuhlii* Bowdich) has been correctly included in *Pontinus* by earlier authors.

Pontinus, including *Merinthe, Nemapontinus,* and *Sebastoplus,* seems to form a worldwide genus of forms that possess unbranched pectoral rays as adults. (Sometimes one ray may be abnormally branched, usually near the base.) This leaves the specimen identified as *Pontinus spilistius* by Matsubara and the paralectotype of *Sebastes nematophthalmus* with uncertain generic placement. Anatomical studies are needed to evaluate the importance of unbranched pectoral rays as a generic character if other characters are shown to be equal.

In species of *Scorpaena* the pectoral rays are unbranched in juveniles, often not branching until the fish reach 50 millimeters in standard length. This is true for other groups, e.g., the subfamily Setarchinae; and several species have been described in new genera or incorrectly referred to *Pontinus* on the basis of this character. Possibly species of *Pontinus,* in their retention of unbranched pectoral rays, have retained a juvenile character.

Diagnosis.—The genus *Pontinus* as constituted above may be characterized at present as follows: Dorsal rays XI+I, 9-10; anal rays III, 5; pectoral rays 15-20, all rays unbranched; swim bladder present; vertebrae 24; second preopercular spine usually reduced or absent; scales ctenoid; cheek, postorbital area and occiput scaly; no occipital pit; teeth on dentary, vomer, premaxillary, pharyngeal and palatine bones.

Pontinus helena, new species
Fig. 2; Table 1

Holotype.—USNM 260470-F3, formerly UMML 16164, a specimen 203 mm in standard length (Fig. 2a), Gulf de Triste, off Venezuela, Lat. 11°10'N, Long. 68°08'W in 220 fathoms, OREGON sta. 4451, 65-foot flat trawl, 11 October 1963.

Paratype.—UMML 16164, a specimen 186 mm in standard length (Fig. 2b), from the same station as the holotype.

Description.—Measurements and counts are summarized in Table 1; body shape and coloration are shown in Figure 2.

Dorsal rays XI+I, 10 (holotype) or 9 (paratype); pectoral rays 19-20 (20,19 and 19,19). Spines on head moderate. Nasal, preocular, supraocular, postocular, frontal, anterior and posterior parietal, postorbital, pterotic, lower posttemporal, opercular, supracleithral, cleithral, preorbital, suborbital, and preopercular spines present. Preopercle with supplemental, first, third, fourth, and fifth spines well developed, second tiny in paratype

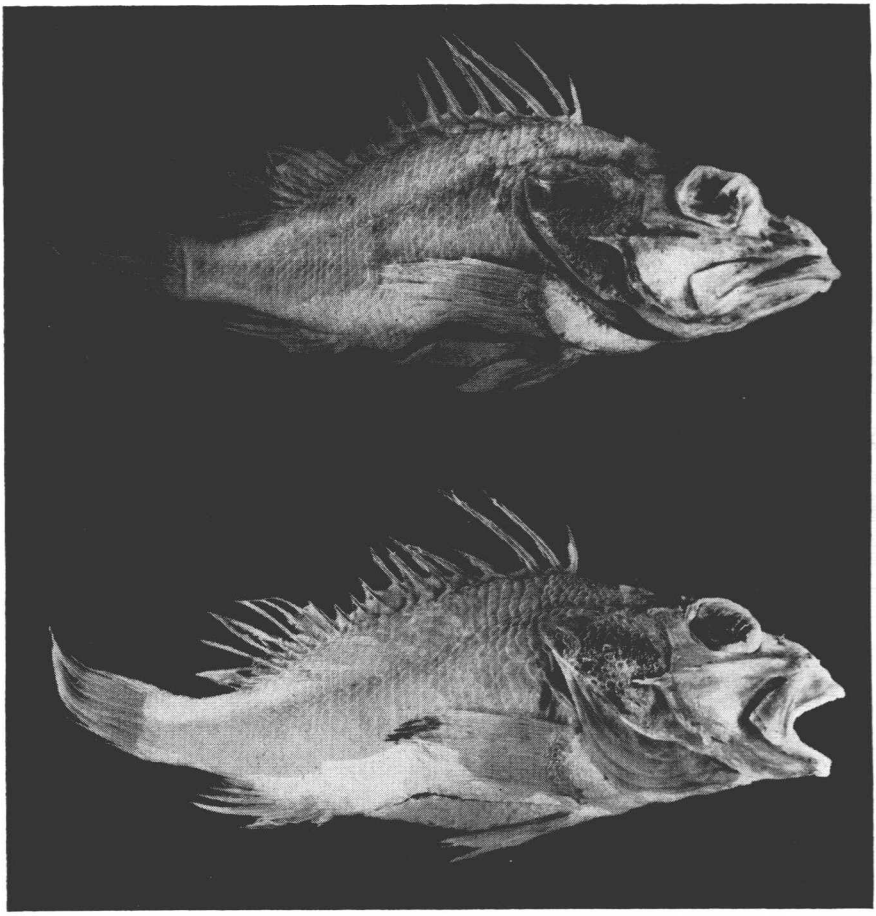

FIGURE 2. *Pontinus helena.*—a. Holotype, 203 mm in standard length, USNM 260470-F3.—b. Paratype, 186 mm, UMML 16164.

and absent in holotype; third spine points down, fourth and fifth down and slightly forward. Suborbital ridge with four spinous points. Preorbital bone with two sharp spines over maxilla, first points out and slightly forward and second points out and to posterior, except right side of holotype the second double and pointing out. Vertebrae 24. Swim bladder large. Small teeth on dentary, premaxillary, vomer, palatine and pharyngeal bones. Four pyloric caeca (not well preserved) in paratype.

Total gill rakers on outside of first arch not countable; rudiments on lower arch indistinct and coalesced, grading into entirely "toothed" hypobranchials; developed gill rakers short, upper rudiments and gill rakers

number 7; 7-8 discernible rakers on lower arch. Pseudobranch well developed. Slit behind fourth gill arch about equal to one-half of orbit diameter. Scales ctenoid. Scales on body large, vertical scale rows about 45. Scales on head smaller; entire dorsal aspect of head scaled. Tubed lateral-line scales 23-24, plus 2 on caudal fin. A predominately pale-colored species, with a few small dusky specks on head and body, not in any pattern. Tips of pectoral, anal, and pelvic fin rays dusky, better marked in paratype.

Comparisons.—Some information is presented in the remarks under the genus. In the western Atlantic Ocean four species are currently recognized. The status of a fifth nominal form, *Pontinus corallinus* Miranda Ribeiro (1915), is uncertain. The new species differs from other western Atlantic species in having more pectoral rays (19-20, probably averaging 19 normally, versus 17 or fewer). The types of *Pontinus nigropunctatus* from St. Helena have 18 pectoral rays (BMNH 1867.18.8.4-5, examined). Species of this genus are not as variable in number of pectoral rays as species of *Scorpaena* and *Helicolenus* (see Ginsburg, 1953, Table 2, p. 15). Other differences include an elongate third dorsal spine in adults of some species (e.g. *P. longispinis* and *P. macrolepis*), and most species appear to have a less-deep body than *P. helena.* In the Western Atlantic *P. helena* is closest to *P. rathbuni.*

Etymology.—The name is from Greek mythology, Helena sister of Castor.

Idiastion, new genus

Diagnosis.—Body deep and moderately compressed. Dorsal rays XI+I, 9; anal rays III, 5; pectoral rays 18 (in only known specimen). Villiform teeth on premaxillary, dentary, vomer, palatine and phayryngeal bones. Swim bladder present. Peritonium unpigmented. Vertebrae 25. All scales ctenoid; head scaled between orbits, along suborbital ridge, on cheeks and opercular regions. Spines on head strongly developed, often multiplicate. A small slit present behind the fourth gill arch.

Etymology.—The name is the diminutive of the Greek word meaning hermit or recluse alluding to the rarity of scorpaenids at this great a depth.

Type-species.—Idiastion kyphos.

Idiastion kyphos, new species

Figs. 3-5; Table 1

Holotype.— USNM 260470-F1, formerly UMML16162, a specimen 105 mm in standard length, southeastern Caribbean Sea between Venezuela and Grenada, Lat. 11°40′N, Long. 62°33′W, in 320-340 fathoms, OREGON sta. 5039, 40-foot shrimp trawl, 24 September 1964.

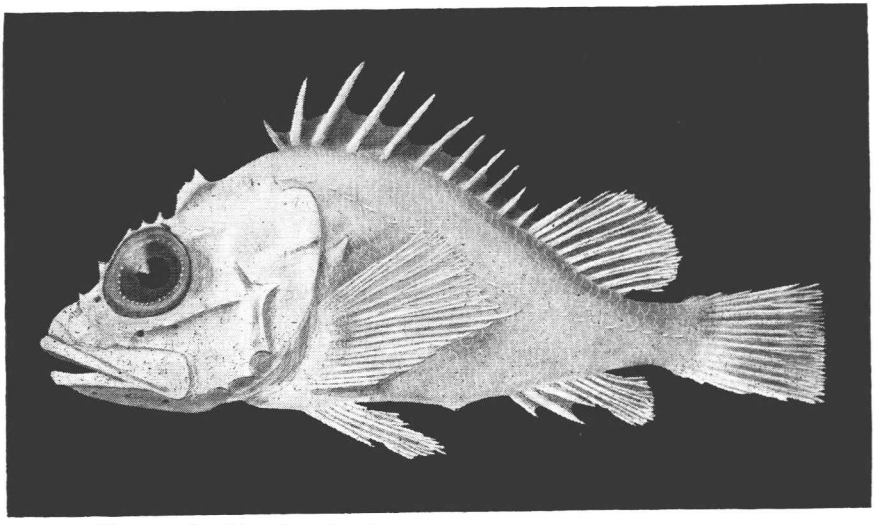

FIGURE 3. *Idiastion kyphos,* holotype, 105 mm in standard length, USNM 260470-F1.

Description.—The general body shape is shown in Figure 3; counts and measurements are summarized in Table 1, and some internal features are discernable in the x-ray (Fig. 4). The preorbital and suborbital bones are illustrated in Figure 5.

FIGURE 4. Radiograph of holotype of *Idiastion kyphos.*

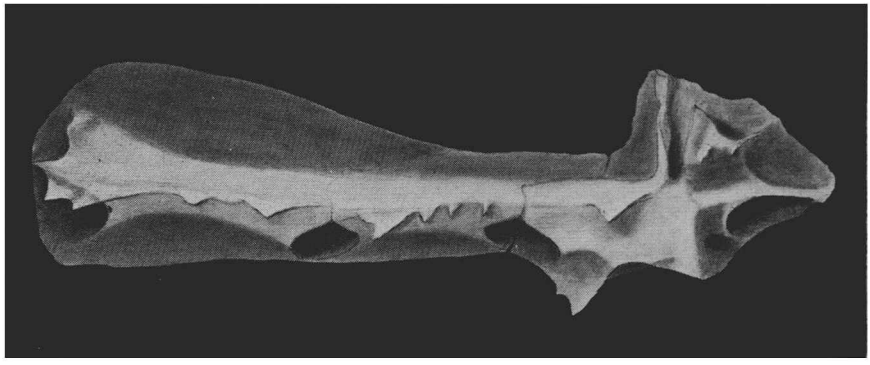

FIGURE 5. Preorbital and suborbital bones of right side of holotype of *Idiastion kyphos*. (Length from tip of preorbital to end of second suborbital bone equals 29 mm.)

Body behind head deep. Pectoral fin with 18 rays, the second through the eighth branched; lower 10 rays simple, fleshy, and with free tips. Spines on head strongly developed. Nasal, preocular, supraocular, postocular, postorbital, pterotic, frontal, anterior and posterior parietal, lower posttemporal, supracleithral, cleithral, and opercular spines well developed. Preorbital bone with 2 spines over maxilla, first blunt, second sharp. Suborbital with about 8 spinous points on each side, with 3 more points in line with suborbital spines present on preorbital; some spines on suborbital result from bifurcated spines. Other compound spines include the pterotics (4 points), anterior parietal spine on left side, first preopercular spine on left side, and third preopercular spine on right side. (Much variability is expected in spination in other specimens of different sizes. Bifurcation of spines is usually more frequent in larger specimens.)

Vertebrae 25. Swim bladder small. Small teeth on dentary, premaxillary, vomer, palatine, and pharyngeal bones. Total gill rakers on outside of first arch number 18; upper gill rakers (5-6) small, increasing in size to angle, largest at angle, decreasing on lower arch ventrally with lower rakers developed as small lumps. Pseudobranch present. A small slit, about one-tenth of orbit diameter, present behind fourth gill arch. Pyloric caeca 4. Scales ctenoid; vertical scale rows number about 45. Smaller ctenoid scales present on pectoral-fin base and dorsal part of head; nape, maxillae, and underside of head unscaled. Tubed lateral-line scales estimated to number 23-24, some scales rubbed off.

Color in life probably predominently orange or red as in other offshore species; a few traces of orange still visible when specimen received. The specimen now almost entirely pallid. Fine specks of dark pigment below the scales show through in some areas of the body. A small unnatural-

looking dark spot present in front of the dorsal fin about midway between the posterior parietal spines and the first dorsal spine.

Remarks.—The family Scorpaenidae is predominantly of Indo-Pacific distribution; most Atlantic species belong to the generalized subfamilies Sebastinae and Scorpaeninae. The majority of the species occurring in the Atlantic Ocean belong in the subfamily Scorpaeninae. While most genera in this subfamily are worldwide in distribution, some genera are better represented in the Atlantic Ocean (e.g., *Scorpaena* and *Pontinus*). Some genera appear to be restricted to the Atlantic or Indo-Pacific, but anatomical studies have not been made in all groups; only one small group of scorpaenids, the subfamily Setarchinae, has been treated on a world basis (Eschmeyer and Collette, in press). I can not identify this species with any existing genus, but certain characters, such as the presence or absence of a slit behind the fourth gill arch, have not been evaluated. The new genus and *Phenacoscorpius* differ from other genera in the subfamily in having 25 rather than 24 vertebrae. The lack of any color pattern, depth of capture, shape of the pectoral fin, branched pectoral rays, humpbacked body outline, teeth on the palatine bones, and well developed spines distinguish this species from other Atlantic species.

Etymology.—The name is from the Greek word meaning hump or humpback alluding to the curvature of the backbone and general body outline in the species.

SUMARIO

TRES NUEVOS RASCACIOS *(Pontinus, Phenascoscorpius,* e *Idiastion)* DE LA ZONA TROPICAL DEL ATLÁNTICO OCCIDENTAL

Se describen tres nuevas especies y un nuevo género de la zona tropical del Atlántico Occidental. *Phenacoscorpius nebris*, de la parte septentrional del Golfo de México y meridional del Mar Caribe, representa el primer reporte de este género en el Océano Atlántico. Se discuten los límites del género *Pontinus* y se incluyen en su sinonimia: *Nemapontinus* Fowler, *Merinthe* Snyder y *Sebastoplus* Gill. *Pontinus helena* es descrito basándose en ejemplares recolectados frente a Venezuela. La tercera nueva especie representa un nuevo género *Idiastion. Idiastion kyphos* es descrito basándose en un ejemplar recolectado en el Mar Caribe frente a Venezuela y a una profundidad de 320-340 brazas.

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