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A NEW PIPEFISH FROM QUEENSLAND.

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(Figures 1-2.)

When drawing some types of Australian fishes in the British Museum, the senior author found a specimen of a Queensland Pipefish which did not agree with Günther's type (from Suez) of the species (*Acentronura tentaculata*) with which it had been previously associated (Duncker, 1915; McCulloch and Whitley, 1925; Dollfus and Petit, 1938). He prepared a description and figure of the specimen, and sent them to the junior author, who studied the fish in relation to the literature and made taxonomic comparisons with its congeners. The specimen is considered to belong to a new species.

Family SYNGNATHIDAE.

Genus ACENTRONURA Kaup, 1853.

Acentronura breviperula, sp. nov.

(Figure 1.)

Length of head contained $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in head plus trunk. Snout equal to diameter of eye, half as long as postorbital part of head. Tail about $1\frac{1}{8}$ times length of combined head and trunk. Thirteen body rings; 42 tail rings, the first seven of which form the brood-pouch. Dorsal fin on $4\frac{1}{2}$ rings, two of which are caudal. Dorsal rays 16; pectoral 15. Dermal filaments as shown in figure 1; larger filaments generally on each fourth ring. General characters of the genus as defined by the authors quoted in the list of references below, and as figured.

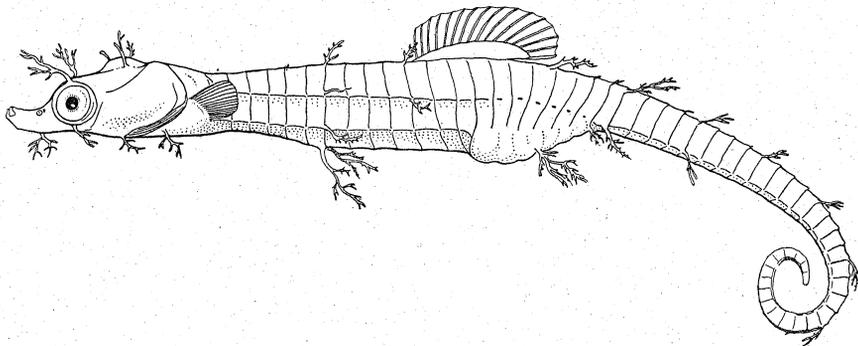


Figure 1.—*Acentronura breviperula* Fraser-Brunner and Whitley.
Holotype from Mabuiag, Torres Strait, Queensland.

A. Fraser-Brunner, del.

Described and figured from the holotype, a specimen about 35 mm. long, from Mabuiag, Torres Strait, Queensland; coll. A. C. Haddon. British Museum registered no. 90.1.14.51.

The male specimen upon which this new species is founded differs from others of its genus in the short brood-pouch, which is borne on only seven rings, and in the proportions of the head, the length of combined snout and eye being equal to the postorbital length. In all other species the postorbital part of the head is relatively shorter.

The genotype of *Acentronura* is *Hippocampus gracilissimus* Temminck and Schlegel, 1850, from Japan; the name was spelt *H. gracillimus* on plate cxx, fig. 6 (not 7 as stated in the text), and the latter mis-spelling has been used by later authors. The description given by Temminck and Schlegel is inadequate, and the figure shows a female example, so that no information as to the number of brood-rings can be adduced; but according to the drawing the snout was comparatively long, the trunk-rings 12 and the caudal rings more than 40, the tail being considerably longer than the combined head and trunk. Jordan and Snyder, who had a specimen from Japan which presumably belonged to the same species, counted 13 trunk-rings and 45 caudal rings, the first 13 of which bore the brood pouch; the tail was $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of combined head and trunk.

Atelurus germani Duméril, 1870, from Cochinchina, has been regarded as a synonym of *A. gracilissima*; the snout is slightly longer than the eye and equal to the postorbital length, and the brood-rings number eleven. Under the name *Acentronura gracillima*, Day described two specimens from the Andaman Islands, but it is possible that, in fact, these belonged to our new species, *A. breviperula*. The figure shows the brood-pouch on only 7 or 8 rings and the tail comparatively short.

In *A. tentaculata* Günther 1870, from Suez, the first 12 caudal rings form the brood pouch; snout and eye together are much longer than postorbital part of head; the tail is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times head and trunk combined. The dorsal fin is on $4\frac{1}{2}$ rings, the last three of which are caudal. Dermal filaments are much longer and more numerous, the principal ones on each second or third ring. Type examined and figured here for the first time (Figure 2). Günther's holotype, 45 mm. long, was obtained in the Gulf of Suez and presented by R. MacAndrew to the British Museum, where it is registered no. 1869.6.21.8.

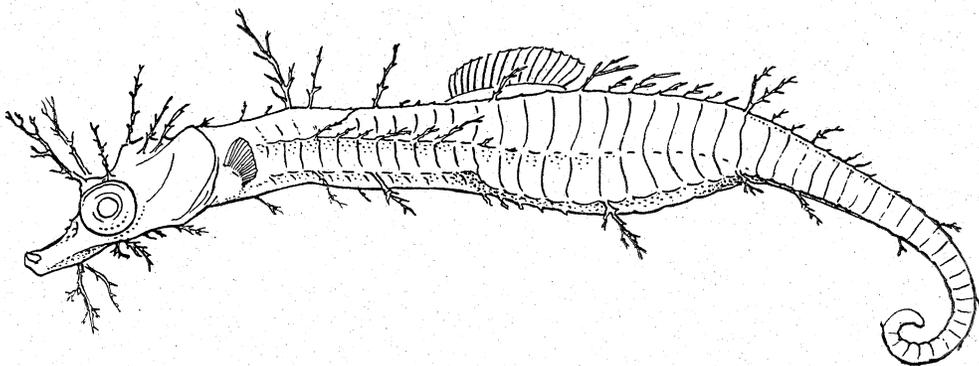


Figure 2.—*Acentronura tentaculata* Günther. Holotype from Suez.

A. Fraser-Brunner, del.

Acentronura australe Waite and Hale 1921, from South Australia (see also Waite 1921 and 1923), has 12 brood-rings and the tail 1.4 times the length of combined head and trunk, but the postorbital part of the head is very little shorter than the rest. Whitley (1947) has proposed a distinct genus *Idiotroptiscis* for this species, on the ground that the tail-rings number only 38 and that the upper body-ridges are not continuous with those of the tail. The tail-rings number 41 to 45 in other species,

and counts in this region are very uncertain since the last few are indistinct, so that the value of this character is doubtful. Since in the other species the upper ridges are continuous, however, the southern form may well represent a sub-genus.

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