

## TWO NEW SCORPION FISHES FROM QUEENSLAND.

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(Figures 1-2.)

The use for the first time of prawn- and otter-trawls in southern Queensland bays in recent years has yielded some interesting fishes which escaped the notice of fishermen and naturalists employing more familiar methods of collecting. Perhaps the most remarkable-looking of these novelties are the various Scorpion Fishes which lurk amongst rocks or weeds, resembling their surroundings, and provided with venomous spines for attack or defence. These Scorpaenidae may be very local in distribution and are specialised, or even grotesque, in shape.

Through the courtesy of the Secretary and Chief Administration Officer of the Department of Harbours and Marine, Brisbane (Mr. E. Coulter) and the Government Ichthyologist (Mr. T. C. Marshall), I have been enabled to examine and report upon two very interesting specimens which are evidently new to science, and which are accordingly named below.

### Family SCORPAENIDAE.

#### *Peristrominus*, gen. nov.

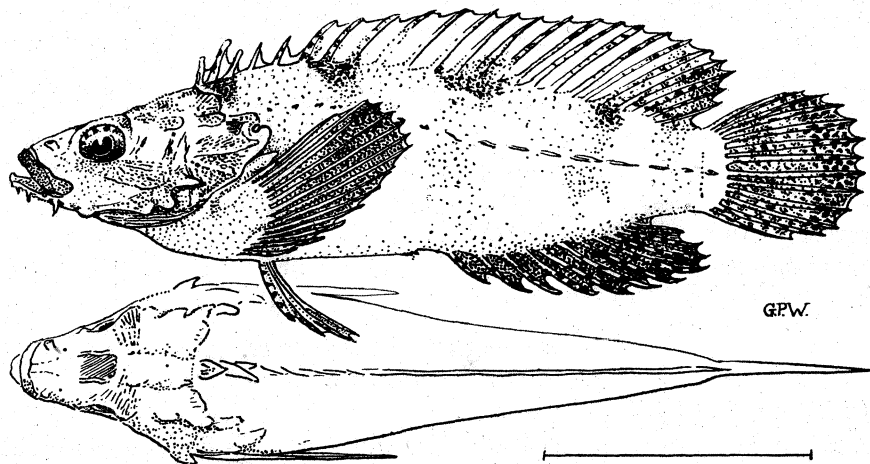
Orthotype, *P. dolosus*, sp. nov.

A genus of Scorpion Fishes with the head armoured with rugose bones without sharp spines; the body scaleless, papillose. Less than eight dorsal spines. All fin-rays simple. No free pectoral rays. V. i, 3. The dorsal fin begins well behind the level of the eyes.

The foregoing characters differentiate the new genus from others in the family, but the position of the first dorsal origin suggests that it is intermediate between Scorpaenidae and Aploactidae.

Latin *peristroma*, a carpet, and *Minous*, a related genus of fishes.

#### *Peristrominus dolosus*, sp. nov.



(Figure 1.)