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Author(s)	KOBAYASHI, Kiyu; 小林, 喜雄
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A RECORD OF THE MURAENOID FISH, *RHINOMURAENA
AMBONENSIS* BARBOUR FROM AMAMI ŌSHIMA

Kiyu KOBAYASHI

Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University

A specimen of the muraenoid fish, *Rhinomuraena ambonensis* BARBOUR was collected at Koniya, Amami Ōshima on 26th August, 1960 by Mr. Akito Kawamura, a student of the Laboratory of Planktology, Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University.

The species has previously been recorded only from the Banda Sea by Weber & Beaufort ('16). Though nine species of the Muraenidae have been recorded by Kamohara ('57) from Amami Ōshima, the present species is not found in the record.

The specimen was gaffed by a diver, when the fish was alive under the sand on the coral-reef. (Specimen No. 18436) (Fig. 1)

Rhinomuraena ambonensis BARBOUR

Rhinomuraena ambonensis: Weber & Beaufort, 1916, The fishes of Indo-Australian Archipelago, III, 352~354.

Body very slender and elongate, total length 1 m. Depth of body 11 mm. at anal portion. The anus is situated at the anterior one-third of body. The distance from tip of snout to anus is 31.8% of total length.

Anterior nostrils produce into a tube ending with a foliaceous appendage, each length being about one-sixth of head length. There are four small barbel-like cutaneous flaps on the anterior part of the head, one of them being between the anterior nostrils and the rest on the symphysis of the lower jaw. Each length is one-fifteenth of head length. Cleft of mouth is large in size and its length about 1.7% of total length. Canines are about 34 in total, arranged in a line on both the upper and lower jaws, and about 10 on the vomer. Eye is small, its diameter being one-twentieth of head length. Six pores of senseorgan on the cheek. Origin of dorsal fin is situated near the occipital portion. The distance from tip of snout to the dorsal origin is one-half of head length. Dorsal fin is high, being the same as the depth of body at the middle of the body. Anal fin is rather low and about one-half of the height of the dorsal fin at the middle of the body.

Color of the body in formalin is bright indigo blue. The dorsal fin is pale in formalin immersion, while bright yellow in fresh condition. Anal fin is dark black surrounded with a white marginal region.

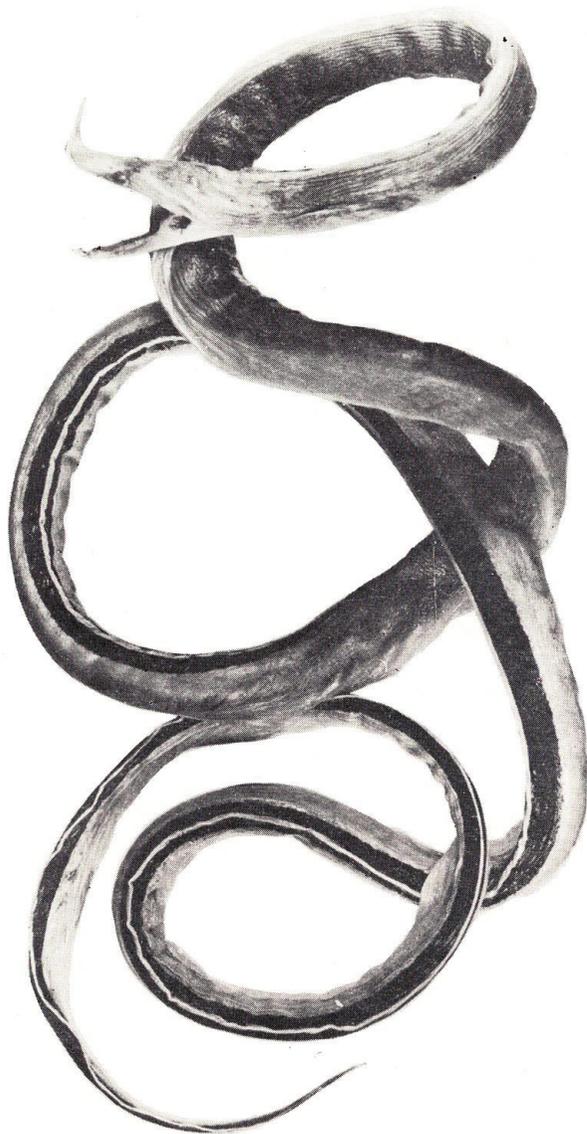


Fig. 1. *Rhinomuraena ambonensis* from Amami Ōshima