

RAE BAXTER'S ANNOTATED KEY TO THE FISHES OF ALASKA

NOTACANTHIDAE
spiny eels NMFS #22800

Mouth "normal"; maxilla toothless; premaxilla and dentary toothed; branchiostgal rays 6-13; gill rakers well developed; dorsal fin with 6-40 isolated spines and no conspicuous rays.

1 - Dorsal spines IX.

Notacanthus chemnitsi (Bloch, 1787)

Range : Northeastern Pacific Ocean, 45 54' N, 125 05'W (BCMP 71-194) 126-3230m

Refer : Baxter #760

Lea & Rosenblatt, 1987:51, fig.1

Dark brownish.

Body elongate, compressed; maxillary extends to mid eye; interorbital space convex; filamentous tail.

Last dorsal spine longest; distance from base of pectoral fin to lateral line is greater, 120.9%, than distance from pectoral fin base to posterior edge of operculum.

Single lateral line, pores small and numerous; body scaled with numerous small scales.

Palatine with 2 or more tooth rows; lower jaw with 2 tooth rows, upper with 1.

TL	575; 525g	D	VIII-XII 2	Head L	14.7 – 17.3% SL
SL	= 97.0 – 98.4% TL	A	XIII-XVII 115-127	Body D	9.3 – 13.1% SL
LLc	1	Pec	12-16: 42-52% HL	PreD L	38.8 – 40.4% SL
LLp	+++	Pel	III 6-7: 28-37% HL	PreA L	40.5 – 47.0% SL
Ls	113-126	Caudal	5	Snout L	21.4 – 26.7% HL
Ds	++; Vs ++	Br	7-11	Up Jaw L	25.0 – 39.1% HL
GR	2-5 + 1 + 11 = 17	Pseudobr		Orbit L	15.3 – 22.1% HL
	= 13-17	Vomer	15.9% HL	Eye L	11.4 – 18.5% HL
GR L	3.3 – 6.8% HL	Palatine teeth		InOrb W	7.3% HL
Caeca	6				
Vert	51-55 +				
	171-180 = 225 -234				

1 - Dorsal spines more than XXX

(2)

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- 2 (1) - Distance from base of pectoral fin to lateral line is about same distance as from base of pectoral to posterior edge of operculum.

Polyacanthonotus altus (Gill & Townsend, 1897)

notacanthid

Range : Bering Sea

Refer : NODC #8740300201

TL	-	D	XXXII	Head L	12.4% SL
SL	- 460	A	LII, 125	Body D	10.4% SL
LLc	1	Pec 14	: 37% HL	PreD L	% SL
LLp		Pel I 9	: 31% HL	PreA L	% SL
GR		C		Snout L	28.8 % HL
Caeca		Br		Max L	% HL
Vert		Pseudobr		Up Jaw L	18.4% HL
		Vomer teeth		Orbit L	% HL
		Palatine teeth		Eye L	13.5% HL
				InOrb W	9.4% HL

- 2 - Distance from base of pectoral to lateral line is less than distance from pectoral base to posterior edge of operculum.

(3)

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3 (2) - Eye very small, length 11.1 – 11.7 percent of head length;
interorbital width 9.3 – 10.0 percent of head length.

Polyacanthonotus challengeri (Vaillant, 1888)

longnose tapirfish

Range : Bering Sea – British Columbia; Japan

1260-3429m

Refer : Amaoka et al 1983:177, fig.27

Hart 1973:92

Notes : NODC #8743030203

Body cream to fairly pink, possibly with light brown markings; black on posterior margins of anal and caudal fins; black on posterior edge of gill cover; oral and gill cavities and part of peritoneum black.

Body elongate, compressed; mouth inferior.

Dorsal fin as isolated spines; anal fin long, of spines and rays; caudal filamentous.

TL	- 520	D	XXXII-XXXVII	Head L	13.2 – 14.5% SL
LLc	1	A	XXXIII-XXXIX	Body D	7.1 – 82% SL
LLp	++		120-140	PreD L	% SL
Ls	123-139	Pec	11-14; 34-40% HL	PreA L	34.8 – 36.3% SL
GR	3-4 + 7-10 = 10-14	Pel	I,8-13; 30-38% HL	Snout L	29.3 – 34.0% HL
Pyloric caeca		C	5	Max L	% HL
Vert	55-62 + 187 =	Br	5	Up Jaw L	17.0 – 17.8% HL
	= 242-244	Pseudobr		Orbit L	% HL
		Vomer teeth		Eye L	14.1% HL
		Palatine teeth	+	InOrb W	9.3 – 13.7% HL

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3 - Eye small, 14.1 percent of head length; interorbital width 7.7 percent of head length.

Polyacanthonotus longus (Gill & Townsend, 1897)

notacanthid

Range : Bering Sea

deep water

Refer : NODC # 8743030202

TL	-	D	XXXIII	Head L	12.1% SL
SL	- 526	A	LV, 111	Body D	7.9% SL
LLc	1	Pec	13: 32.6% HL	PreD L	% SL
LLp		Pel	19: 30.9% HL	PreA L	% SL
GR		C		Snout L	% HL
Pyloric Caeca		Br		Max L	% HL
Vert		Pseudobr		Up Jaw L	18.5% HL
		Vomer teeth		Orbit L	% HL
		Palatine teeth		Eye L	14.1% HL
				InOrb W	7.7% HL