

## FIRST CALIFORNIA RECORD OF THE SERRANID FISH *ANTHIAS GORDENSIS* WADE

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During February, 1974, James R. Chess and I collected a single specimen of *Anthias gordensis* Wade, 102 mm (4 inches) standard length (SL) (Figure 1), at Ship Rock, Santa Catalina Island (33° 28' N, 118° 29' W). When speared, this fish was the only member of its species seen amid a large aggregation of blacksmith, *Chromis punctipinnis*, that hovered close above a rocky ledge at a depth of about 40 m (132 ft). The specimen, now in the fish collection at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO 74-22), was identified by Richard H. Rosenblatt of that institution.

*Anthias gordensis* was described by Wade (1946) from a 127 mm (5 inch) SL holotype and a 130 mm (5.1 inch) SL paratype, both dredged at a depth of about 150 m (495 ft) near inner Gorda Bank, Cape San Lucas, Lower California, Mexico. Dr. Rosenblatt (pers. comm.) observed large numbers of this species from the Cousteau diving saucer at depths between 100 and 200 m (330 and 660 ft) at Cape San Lucas, but because this fish inhabits infrequently sampled deeper reefs, relatively few specimens have been collected. Until now, the northernmost record of the species is a single individual 205 mm (8.1 inches) SL taken near the bottom 110 m (363 ft) deep at Guadalupe Island, Mexico (29° N, 118° 30' W), by Albert Stover, Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO 63-161).

Only one other species of this genus has been reported from the eastern Pacific: *Anthias sechurae* (Barton) from Peru, based on a 188 mm (7.4 inch) SL holotype and a 192 mm (7.6 inch) paratype (Barton 1947). Hildebrand and Barton (1949) recognized that *A. sechurae* may be a junior synonym of *A. gordensis*, with differences in descriptions being partly due to differences in size between type specimens, but the question remains unresolved.

The following combination of characters of the specimen from Santa Catalina Island confirm its identity: dorsal X, 15; anal III, 7; body depth and head both 3 in standard length; eye 3.7 in head; scales

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ctenoid, 48 on lateral line; head and maxillary scaled, dorsal and anal fins without scales.

Stomach contents of the specimen from Santa Catalina Island, identified by James R. Chess, and ranked as percentage by volume of identifiable material, were as follows: 67 calanoid copepods, 0.6 to 1.2 mm (0.02 to 0.05 inch) long, 75%; 14 cyclopoid copepods, 0.8 mm (0.03 inch) long, 10%; 6 euphausiid larvae, 1.0 mm (0.04 inch) long, 5%; and 9 fish eggs, 1.0 mm (0.04 inch) in diameter, 10%. Clearly this fish is a planktivore, as is the blacksmith (Quast 1968), with which it was swimming when collected.

#### REFERENCES

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- Edmund S. Hobson, Tiburon Laboratory, Southwest Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 98, Tiburon, California 94920. Accepted November 1974.

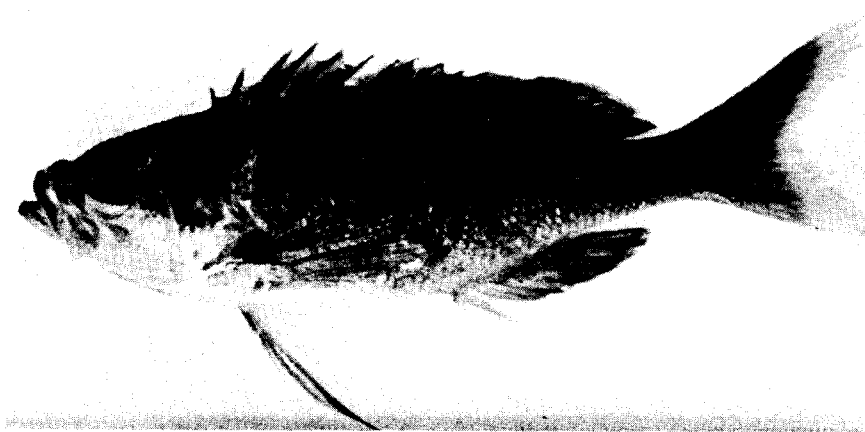


FIGURE 1. Specimen of *Anthias gordensis* Wade, 102 mm SL, collected at Santa Catalina Island (SIO 74-22).

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