

SECOND RECORD OF BLACK SKIPJACK,
EUTHYNNUS LINEATUS,
FROM THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Matsumoto and Kang (1967) reported the first capture of the black skipjack, *Euthynnus lineatus* Kishinouye, in the Hawaiian Islands. Recently (14 July 1975), a second black skipjack was taken in these waters by a Hawaiian pole-and-line skipjack tuna fishing vessel, the *Marlin*, skippered by Walter Asari. The fish was noticed by a fish receiver at Hawaiian Tuna Packers, Richard Howell, who contacted Robert T. B. Iversen, Southwest Region Representative stationed at the Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory. Iversen brought the fish to me for identification.

The specimen, 454 mm fork length, and weighing 1.53 kg, was caught from a school of small skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, at the extreme tip of Penguin Banks, about 40 km south of the eastern end of Oahu. The specimen is deposited in the U.S. National Museum collection (USNM 214683).

Measurements in millimeters taken according to the methods described by Godsil and Byers

(1944) are as follows: Fork length - 454; head length - 126; 1st dorsal insertion - 144; 2d dorsal insertion - 271; anal fin insertion - 306; ventral fin insertion - 144; greatest body depth - 112; greatest body width - 73; dorsal-ventral distance - 108; dorsal-anal distance - 188; ventral insertion to vent - 160; length 1st dorsal base - 130; length 2d dorsal base - 29; length anal base - 25; length pectoral - 70; height 1st dorsal - 61; height 2d dorsal - 28; height anal - 28; diameter of iris - 19; maxillary length - 50; snout to posterior margin of eye - 54.

Counts: 1st dorsal spines - 14, plus 1 imbedded; 2d dorsal rays - 12; dorsal finlets - 8; anal rays - 12; anal finlets - 7; pectoral rays - 26; gill rakers - left side $9 + 1 + 24 = 34$, right side $9 + 1 + 25 = 35$.

The external characters agree with that of the previous capture (Matsumoto and Kang 1967) and with Godsil's (1954) description of the species. Five black unbranched stripes run parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body on the back from the corselet to the caudal fin, and five or six faint unbranched stripes run horizontally on the belly. Two black thoracic spots are located on each side at the indentation of the corselet near the ventral margin of the body.

The vertebral count is $20 + 17 = 37$. As in the previous capture, four large protuberances are present on the 31st vertebra, a characteristic of this species (Godsil 1954).

Although this is only the second specimen recorded, an interview with the skipper of the vessel disclosed that fish similar to this are often caught but are not reported. The question posed in 1967 as to whether this is a chance migrant from the eastern Pacific Ocean still stands.

Literature Cited

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