

NEW RECORDS OF
THE MYCTOPHID FISH, *NOTOSCOPELUS KROEYERI*,
FROM NORWAY AND THE EASTERN ATLANTIC

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ABSTRACT

Four specimens of *Notoscopelus kroeyeri* are recorded from the south and west coast of Norway, and 30 from the eastern North Atlantic. Some meristic characters are listed, and the distribution of the species briefly discussed.

During 1969 and 1970 a number of specimens of *Notoscopelus kroeyeri* (MALM, 1863) have been caught off the coast of Norway, between Shetland and the Faroe Islands, and off Ireland. The new records are listed in Table 1.

Two of the catches were made by shrimp trawlers and the others by R/V *G. O. Sars*. The standard length of the fish ranged between 99 and 138 mm. The trawl tow between Shetland and the Faroe Islands also yielded approximately 50 specimens of *Benthosema glaciale* (REINHARDT) and one *Myctophum punctatum* RAFINESQUE.

Some meristic characters of diagnostic importance are given in Table 2. AO photophores and gill rakers were counted on both sides of the fish wherever possible.

One specimen had only six gill rakers on the lower limb of the first arch on one side. This is one less than previously found (BOLIN 1959). Another specimen had 10+7 AO photophores on one side, and one had this number on both sides. This makes a total of 17, which is one more than the highest number recorded by BOLIN (l.c.). All the other counts fell within the normal range for the species (see BOLIN l.c.).

In 1954 one *N. kroeyeri* was taken between Finmark and Bear Island (BLACKER 1968). Apart from this no specimen has been recorded from Scandinavian waters since about 1880 when a school was reported in Trondheimsfjorden (COLLETT 1903). About 1880 one specimen was also collected at Söröya, Finnmark (COLLETT 1903).

In Denmark one specimen was found off Skagen in 1856, and in Sweden one in Kosterfjorden in 1870 (ANDERSSON 1942). One specimen was recorded from Ireland by HOLT & BRYNE (1911).

In the Atlantic *N. kroeyeri* is distributed from about 38°N to Greenland, Iceland, and Norway (BOLIN 1959). Many specimens have been recorded from

Table 1. New records of *Notoscopelus kroeyeri*

Date	Locality and position	Gear ¹	Depth m	Bottom depth m	Temp. at fishing depth °C	Day/night	No. of specimens caught
10 July 69	Off Sotra, 60°25'N, 4°20'E	Sh	300	300	6.3	day	1
13 March 70	W of Lista, 58°03'N, 5°20'E	Pel	150–200	300	5.5–6.0	day	1
27 Sept. 70	S of Lista, 57°42'N, 6°40'E	Pel	200–220	314	5.5	day	1
1970	Svenerbakken	Sh	—	—	—	—	1
14 June 70	SW of the Faroes, 61°36'N, 3°49'W	Pel	260	1200	8.6	night	3
11 Oct. 70	Porcupine Bank, 53°36'N, 14°06'W	Pel	260–280	369	10.2	day	27

¹ Sh = Shrimp trawl, Pel = Pelagic trawl

Canadian waters (HALLIDAY & SCOTT 1969). It has been regarded as rare in the eastern North Atlantic but, as pointed out by BACKUS et al. (1970), little is known about the distribution of mesopelagic fishes in this part of the ocean, and it is probable that its apparent scarcity is partly due to little use of suitable gear.

N. kroeyeri may easily be confused, too, with the far more common *Bentosema glaciale* (by fishermen and others who may occasionally find it), so further investigations need to be made on its distribution.

The material listed in Table 1 has been deposited in the Zoological Museum, Oslo (ZMO No. 577/70, 9–12/71).

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Table 2. Some meristic characters of *N. kroeyeri*.

Locality	Gill rakers								
	6+1+19	7+1+18	8+1+16	8+1+17	8+1+18	8+1+19	9+1+17	9+1+18	9+1+19
Norway	—	—	—	2	5	—	—	1	—
The Faroes and Shetland	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—
Ireland	1	1	2	14	22	1	1	3	3

Locality	AO photophores						Dorsal fin rays		
	8+7	8+8	9+6	9+7	9+8	10+7	21	22	23
Norway	—	—	—	4	—	1	2	1	1
The Faroes and Shetland	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	—
Ireland	3	1	10	16	2	2	11	15	—

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