

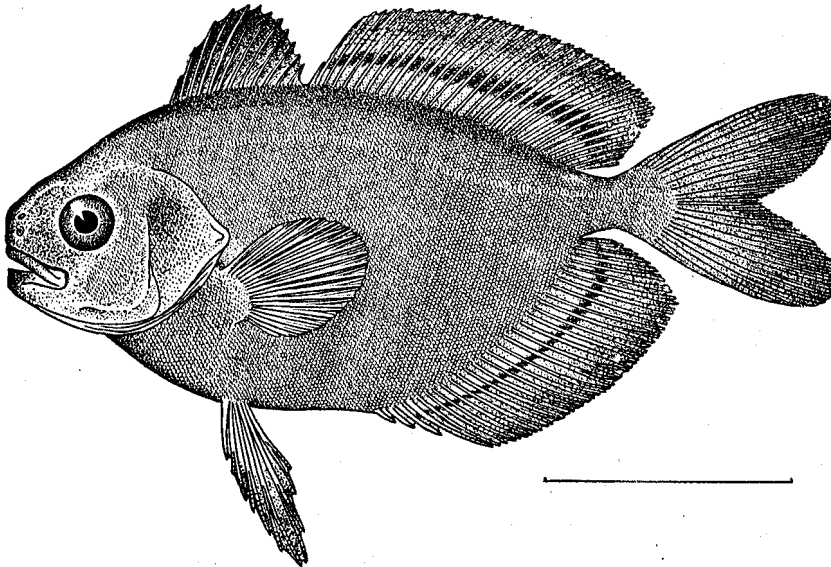
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Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW OCEANIC FISH FOUND OFF SOUTHERN NEW
ENGLAND.

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Psenes edwardsii, sp. nov.

Head 3; depth 2; D. XII-1, 30; A. III, 28; V. I, 5; lateral line about 140. Depth of head over middle of eye little less than its length; eye 1 in snout, 3.6 in head, 1.4 in interorbital; width of body at axils 2.5 in length of head; maxillary reaching front of eye; no adipose lid; top of head fatty, with few pores; pectoral broadly rounded,



Psenes edwardsii.

1.5 in head; ventral shorter than head by half diameter of eye; highest dorsal spine 2 in head; highest dorsal ray 1.75 in head. Translucent; back thickly covered with pigment cells; these extend below the lateral line, and along base of anal; abdominal region entirely free from pigment; spinous dorsal, ventrals, and caudal dark; other fins dusky; a dark band on the soft dorsal and anal just beyond the scaly base.

Type (No. 49745, U.S.N.M.), a single specimen, 90 mm. long, taken about July 28, 1900, by the schooner *Grampus*, from under a medusa, 30 miles south of Newport, Rhode Island. This species is evidently closely related to *Psenes pellucidus*, from which it differs in the longer snout, smaller eye, fewer fin rays, rounded fins, etc.

I take great pleasure in associating with this species the name of Mr. Vinal N. Edwards, who has been connected with the U. S. Fish Commission as collector since its establishment thirty years ago, and who assisted Prof. S. F. Baird as collector before the establishment of the Commission.

The genus *Psenes* is distinguished by Goode & Bean (Oceanic Ichthyology, p. 219) from *Nomeus* and other genera of the *Nomeidæ* by "Pectorals long, surpassing ventrals * * *," but in their description and figure of *Psenes pellucidus* the ventrals are given as 5 mm. longer than the pectorals. The first dorsal of *Psenes* is said to possess 6 to 10 spines, while *Psenes pellucidus* is figured as possessing 12 spines. In the description of the family of *Nomeidæ* the palate is said to possess teeth, while in their description of the genus *Psenes* teeth are described for the jaws only. These mistakes are repeated by Jordan & Evermann in *The Fishes of North and Middle America* (pp. 948-950). In their synopsis of the families of the *Scombroidei*, Jordan & Evermann (p. 863) distinguish the *Nomeidæ* from the *Stromateidæ* by the absence in the latter of tooth-like processes in the œsophagus. The specimen of *Psenes* under consideration has an enlarged œsophagus with denticles like those found in the *Stromateidæ*. As far as I am able to make out in small specimens of *Nomeus* the œsophagus is similarly modified. The *Nomeidæ* are readily distinguished from the *Stromateidæ* by their large number of vertebræ.