

Bathypterois caught south of New Zealand by Argo

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One of the ocean's oddest fishes has been caught south of New Zealand by a research vessel of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

The ship Argo radioed recently that a deep trawl had recovered a specimen of the fish known scientifically as Bathypterois. It is a deep dwelling creature almost two feet long. It is remarkable for having fins almost as long as its body. It trails these fins in the mud as it swims along the bottom. It may even use them to keep it from sinking into the ooze over which it lives.

Although known to science for almost a century, Bathypterois has been caught only infrequently. The Scripps' fish collection, one of the world's best so far as deep-sea species are concerned, contains no specimen. The one caught off New Zealand has been preserved and will be added to the collection.

The ship Argo left San Diego on Monsoon Expedition in August. She has conducted geological and geophysical studies of the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean and is now returning home. She is due in port late in March.