

Family 097 **Pomadasyidae:** grunts

**097.006** *Haemulon sciurus* (Shaw) **BLUESTRIPED GRUNT**

**DISTRIBUTION** W.I., everywhere common; S.C. to Brazil; Bermuda, fairly common.

**HABITS** Frequent corals, sea fans, and rock formations in small or large schools, scattering at night to feed on crustaceans, molluscs, worms, etc. Not territorial. Probably spawn in Aug.

**SIZE** To 0.45 m; avg. ca. 0.45 kg.

**SOUND PRODUCTION** *NML studies.* 1. BBS, Dec. 1951. Weak chewing sounds during competitive feeding of school in large aquarium. Long-continued, scratchy grunting with mild annoyance in test tank, produced from one per 2 sec to two per 1 sec, duration of each 80–150 msec.

2. LML, Nov.–Dec. 1952. Many acclimated young and adults in test tank: loud grunting when netted or handled, produced one to four per sec, duration of each 40–160 msec.

3. PRIMS, April 1955. Typical grunts easily stimulated by MS, produced two to five per sec, duration of each 40–70 msec.

4. Mayaguez, P.R., April 1956. Single large captive in test tank: eventual grunting similar to above not easily provoked.

*Moulton studies, LML, 1958.* Pharyngeal stridulation in hand-held specimen only (0–8,000 Hz; principal freq. 1,500–4,000 Hz; duration 0.02–0.1 sec/stridulation) (Moulton, 1958a).

*Tavolga studies, Bimini, Bahamas.* Broad-band, short pulses in irregular groups; frequencies to 6 kHz, predominantly below 3 kHz (Tavolga, 1968).

**SONIC MECHANISM** Pharyngeal teeth and swim bladder, similar to *H. album*.

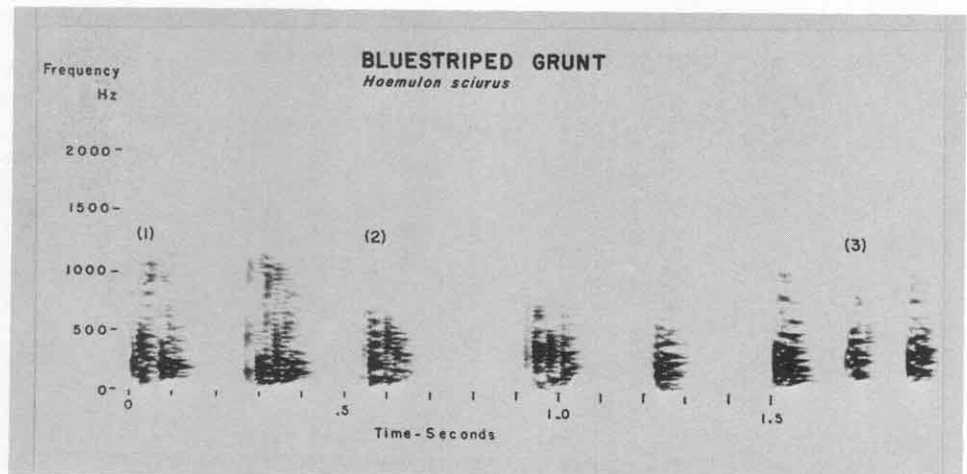


Fig. 134. Spectra of eight grunts recorded at different times: (1) two sounds at BBS; (2) four sounds from two specimens at LML; (3) two sounds at PRIMS.

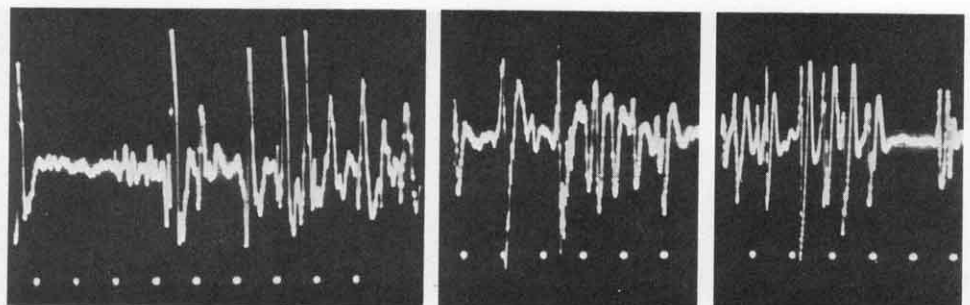


Fig. 135. Oscillograms of the sounds shown above at 0.3, 1.2, and 1.7 sec. Time marks at 10-msec intervals.