

## ON STATHMONOTUS, A NEW GENUS OF FISHES RELATED TO MURÆNOIDES, FROM FLORIDA.

By TARLETON H. BEAN,

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Among the valuable collections of marine animals recently made for the National Museum by Mr. Henry Hemphill at Key West, Fla., are two examples of a fish which has a very close superficial resemblance to *Murænoides*, to which it seems to be nearly related.

The genus *Murænoides*, however, is an inhabitant of northern seas, and, on our eastern coast, has never been recorded even as far to the southward as Cape Hatteras. It is, therefore, a matter of considerable surprise to find a fish of this type in comparatively shallow water in close proximity to the tropics.

At first I was inclined to refer the species to the genus *Murænoides*, but upon subsequent examination it exhibited characters which fully warrant its separation as a new genus.

*Stathmonotus*, new genus. ( $\Sigma\tau\alpha\theta\mu\eta$ , a carpenter's rule.)

The body is moderately long and low, much compressed. The head is small, compressed, naked; the mouth is small, oblique; conical teeth in both jaws, in two series, the outer of which is slightly enlarged, and in the upper jaw somewhat recurved. There are a few teeth on the vomer. The gili-membranes are as in *Murænoides*. Scales, none. No lateral line. The dorsal fin is long and low, beginning near the head, and consisting entirely of stiff, sharp spines, which are very short anteriorly and very gradually increase in size posteriorly. The anal is similar to the dorsal, and contains two spines and many soft rays. The caudal fin is short, rounded, and scarcely separated from the dorsal and anal. The pectorals are small, much smaller than in *Murænoides*, and contain only a few rays. The ventrals are better developed than in *Murænoides* and their position is more anterior. They consist of a spine and two rays. Pseudobranchiæ absent. Branchiostegals, 5.

*Stathmonotus hemphillii*, new species. (Plate XIII, Proc. Nat. Mus., 1885.)

The catalogue number of the type specimens is 37193.

The end of the maxilla extends about to the vertical through the hind margin of the eye. The jaws are subequal, or the lower projects very slightly beyond the upper. The eyes are small, separated by an interspace about equal to their own length and very slightly greater than the length of the snout. The eye is about one-sixth as long as the head. The pectoral is very little more than one-fourth as long as the head and scarcely as long as the ventral.

The greatest height of the body is contained 8 or  $8\frac{1}{2}$  times in its

length to caudal base. The length of the head is one-seventh of the total without caudal. The dorsal begins over the posterior end of the pectoral; its anterior spines are very much shorter than the posterior ones. The length of the caudal is about equal to the length of the post-orbital part of the head. The vent is slightly in advance of the middle of the total length to base of caudal, and is about under the twentieth spine of the dorsal.

Colors from the alcoholic specimen: A white line extends from the tip of the snout to the caudal and is divided into small segments by short cross-bars, the first two of which are on the head and the last at the origin of the caudal. Posteriorly these short bars extend downward, terminating slightly below the base of the dorsal fin. There are several white blotches, simulating bars, on the posterior half of the anal fin, and the caudal has a white margin. Sides and under surface of the head with several whitish oblique bands forming V-shaped markings. A few roundish white blotches on the sides of the head, the most conspicuous of which is behind the eye. The general color is dark brownish, nearly black.

D. LI; A. II, 27; V. I, 2; P. 5 or 6.

Plate XIII represents the species four times the natural size. The drawing was made by Mr. H. L. Todd.

#### NOTE ON STOASODON NARINARI, EUPHERASEN.

By TARLETON H. BEAN,

*Curator of the Department of Fishes.*

The National Museum received May 21, 1885, from Mr. E. F. Denechaud, a fine specimen of the above species, which was brought to the New Orleans market from near Cedar Keys, Fla.

The general color of the whole upper surface is chocolate brown, everywhere sprinkled with roundish or oblong pearly blotches, the largest of which are about as long as the eye and the smallest less than one half as long. The iris is yellowish-gray. The under surface is milky white, except the margin of the snout, which is very dark gray. The tail is uniform chocolate-brown.

The middle of the interorbital space contains a long furrow, which is deepest in front and becomes shallow posteriorly. The greatest width of this furrow is 30 millimeters. The anterior edge of the pectorals is about at the lower margin of the spiracle.

The spiracles are obliquely placed.

#### *Measurements.*

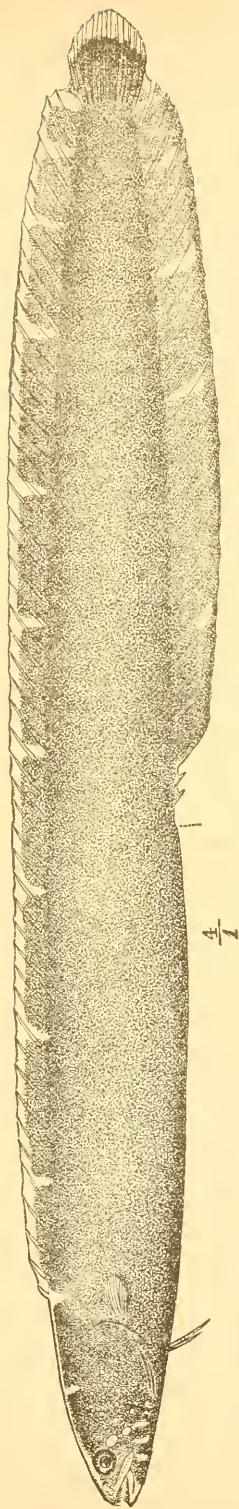
(Catalogue number of specimen, 37196.)

	Millimeters.
Length of disk to posterior angle of ventral .....	550
Greatest width of disk .....	980
Length of tail from posterior angle of ventral .....	1,405

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XIII.

(For description see pages 191-192.)

*Stathmonotus hemphillii* Bean. Four times natural size.  
Key West, Florida, Henry Hemphill.



STATHMONOTUS HEMPHILLII—4 TIMES NATURAL SIZE.  
(Described on page 191.)