NOTES ON THE CAPTURE OF RARE FISHES.

By Barton A. Bean,
Assistant Curator, Division of Fishes.

Several of the fishes here noticed are, so far as records show, among the rarest forms known to the waters of North America. The berycoid form (*Caulolepis*) is the second example of the genus dredged in the North Atlantic Ocean.[1]

The black ruffe (*Centrolophus*) is the second individual recorded from the western Atlantic, and the ragfish (*Acrotus*) is but the second example definitely placed on record.

CAULOLEPIS LONGIDENS Gill.

Caulolepis longidens Gill, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., VI, p. 259; Oceanic Ichthyology, p. 185, pl. LV, fig. 204.

The example here recorded is No. 38201 of the U. S. National Museum register. It was obtained at station 2724 by the steamer *Albatross*, being in north latitude 36° 47′ and west longitude 73° 25′, October 23, 1886. The depth of the water at this station was 1,641 fathoms.

Length of specimen, 6¼ inches; depth, 2½ inches. Length of head, 1⅞ inches. The diameter of the orbit is one-fifth length of head. D. 18; A. 8.

This second individual, though considerably larger than the type, exhibits no striking differences in structure. It is slightly longer in comparison with the depth, and is in a better state of preservation.

CENTROLOPHUS NIGER (Gmelin).

BLACK RUFFE.

Although more or less common to the deep water of the coasts of southern Europe, this is only the second example recorded from our side of the Atlantic, the first being a 9-inch individual taken at Dennis, Massachusetts, in 1888, and noticed by Goode and Bean.[2]

Total length, 12¾ inches. Taken in an offshore fish trap at North Truro, Massachusetts, September 6, 1890. Preserved by Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, jr., and presented by him to the U. S. National Museum, September 8, 1898, being part of accession No. 33974.

[1] A third example of this fish has been obtained in the Pacific Ocean.

[2] Oceanic Ichthyology, p. 214, pl. LXI, fig. 222.

ACROTUS WILLOUGHBYI Bean.

In March, 1898, Mr. J. O. Cates, of Port Townsend, Washington, telegraphed the Smithsonian Institution of the discovery upon the beach of a strange fish, which he thought was an *Acrotus*. In answer to a telegram from the U. S. National Museum Mr. Cates forwarded the fish in ice, through the Seattle Fish Company. The specimen reached here in fair condition and the writer obtained the following measurements and notes:

Length to end of middle caudal rays	feet	5
Greatest height of body	inches	15
Length of head	do	8
Width of interorbital area	do	3
Diameter of orbit (measurement doubtful)	do	1¼
Dorsal from snout (origin doubtful)	do	18
Dorsal base, length of	do	29
Dorsal, greatest height (longest rays)	do	1¾
Anal, origin from snout	do	25
Anal, length of base	do	21
Anal, length of longest rays	do	1¾
Caudal, length of middle rays	do	4¼
Caudal, length of lower external rays	do	10
Caudal, length of upper external rays	do	9
Pectoral base from snout	do	9
Pectoral, length of	do	7½
Pectoral, width of base of	do	2⅝
Caudal peduncle, length of	do	6½

Caudal peduncle tapering from 3¾ to 3¼ inches in height.

D. 38 or 40; A. 34 or 35; P. 21; C. 36; B. 6. Gills 4, with an opening behind the fourth; gill-rakers seven to ten. The eye is contained seven times in the length of the head.

The dorsal and anal fins end opposite each other; the last ray of the dorsal is contained two and a half times in the longest rays (middle of fin); the last ray of the anal about two times in the longest rays. Lower lobe of caudal longer than the upper.

Color.—Uniform chocolate brown, with purplish cast; pinkish where skin had been rubbed off; fins darker.

From a plaster mold prepared by Mr. William Palmer a very good cast was obtained. The fish has been preserved in alcohol. No. 48872, U.S.N.M.

First described by Dr. T. H. Bean.[1] Made the type of a distinct family by Dr. Theodore Gill.[2]

[1] Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1887, p. 631.

[2] Oceanic Ichthyology, p. 217, fig. 225.