

NOTE ON THE FISH GENERA NAMED MACRODON.

By THEODORE GILL.

Honorary Associate in Zoology.

Having had occasion recently to consider a question relative to the Sciaenids, I found that Drs. Jordan and Evermann had adopted the name *Sagenichthys* of Berg (1895) for the genus called *Ancylodon* by Cuvier (1817). No new name was necessary, however, as one had been given long before as a substitute. The facts should be made known now in order to avoid the continuance of improper usage.

I.

Ancylodon was used by Cuvier (1817) for a genus of Sciaenoid fishes and was generally adopted for that genus till 1895. It had, however, been used previously (1811) by Illiger for a genus of Ziphioid cetaceans. This was known to Dr. H. R. Schinz, the translator of the first edition of Cuvier's *Règne Animal*, and in his work (*Das Thierreich*) published in 1822 he substituted (II, 482) the name "Die Grosszähne, *Macrodon*," for "*Ancylodon*, Cuv." or "*Ancylodon*," and in a footnote (II, 483) indicated "Das Wort *Ancylodon*, Hackenzahn, kann deswegen nicht gebraucht werden, weil eine Wallfischart so genannt wird. Es gehört dahin: *Lonchurus ancylodon*, Schneid."

This is in every respect perfectly regular, but the fact has been universally overlooked.

II.

Macrodon was used by Johannes Müller in 1842, in the *Archiv für Anatomie, Physiologie* [etc.], p. 308, for a genus of the family of Erythrinids (by him associated with his family of Characins) and has been universally retained for it ever since. The previous use of the name by Schinz (in 1822), however, renders it untenable for a later genus, and the one designated by Müller may receive the new name

HOPLIAS, with the *Macrodon tateira* or *trahira* of Müller as its type. The species will therefore be called *Hoplias tateira* by those who object to erroneous names and *Hoplias malabaricus* by those who insist on retaining the first given name, however erroneous it may be:

The name *Hoplias* is derived from the Greek ὄπλον, ὄπλα, armor, with the suffix -ίας and allusion is made to the defensive armature in the way of the cranial shield-like surface as well as the offensive teeth. An analogous classical name is *Xiphias*.

This name *Hoplias* is given with full knowledge of the name *Hoplia* of Illiger. The two names are quite distinct.