

Teeth.—Vomerine teeth in a patch shaped like a spear, with concave cutting edges and acutely produced angles.

Table of Measurements.

Current number of specimen.....	21,337.	
Locality.....	Pensacola, Fla.	
	Millim.	100ths.
Extreme length without caudal.....	430
Length to end of middle caudal rays.....	501	(19½ in.)
Body:		
Greatest height.....		34
Height at ventrals.....		32
Least height of tail.....		12
Head:		
Greatest length.....		34
Width of interorbital area.....		8
Length of snout.....		13
Length of operculum.....		11
Length of maxillary.....		14
Length of mandible.....		17
Distance from snout to centre of orbit.....		15½
Diameter of eye.....		5½
Dorsal (spinous):		
Distance from snout.....		39½
Length of base.....		26
Length of first spine.....		3½
Length of second spine.....		7
Length of longest spine.....		(4th) 11½
Length of last spine.....		7½
Dorsal (soft):		
Length of base.....		21
Length of first ray.....		9
Length of longest ray.....		(4th) 11
Length of last ray.....		6
Anal:		
Distance from snout.....		73
Length of base.....		13½
Length of first spine.....		3½
Length of second spine.....		7
Length of third spine.....		6½
Length of first ray.....		12
Length of longest ray.....		(2d) 13
Length of last ray.....		6½
Caudal:		
Length of middle rays.....		16½
Length of external rays.....		25
		23
Pectoral:		
Distance from snout.....		33½
Length.....		23½
Ventral:		
Distance from snout.....		38½
Length.....		17
Branchiostegals.....		7
Dorsal.....	X,	14
Anal.....	III,	8
Caudal.....	+ 17 +	
Pectoral.....	I,	5
Ventral.....	I,	15
Number of scales in lateral line.....		45
Number of transverse rows above lateral line.....		6
Number of transverse rows below lateral line.....		14

A NOTE ON THE GULF MENHADEN, BREVOORTIA PATRONUS, GOODE.

By SILAS STEARNS.

The Gulf Menhaden are first seen about Pensacola in April. They enter the harbor in small schools, swimming at the surface, rippling the water as they go. I have never seen any large schools, perhaps not more than four or five barrels in one body; but the number of small schools which might be seen in a few hours at the right place and in a

favorable time would make an immense school or schools, if consolidated. The fishermen report them in small bunches outside and offshore. I have never seen one in the spring which would measure over six inches, and the greater number measure less than that; all the fishermen confirm this.

They seem to stay in brackish water until they get accustomed to the change, and lose their parasite,* and then go directly into the fresh water. About May 27, I hauled a seine in a fresh-water stream near the head of the bay, and caught nearly a barrel of *Brevoortia patronus*. Their color was darker, and I did not find any parasites in their mouths. Their stomachs were full of food, but I could find no traces of spawn or milt. I do not know exactly when they return from fresh water, but last October Major Staples and I caught about two dozen in a gill-net with a mesh of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I remember that they were gilled very hard, and therefore judge that they must have been quite large. I am quite positive that they belonged to the same species.

PENSACOLA, FLA., June 6, 1878.

A NOTE UPON THE BLACK GROUPE (EPINEPHELUS NIGRITUS (HOLBROOK) GILL) OF THE SOUTHERN COAST.

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON H. BEAN.

Among the specimens from Pensacola sent by Mr. Stearns, there is the "Jew-fish" of West Florida, said to attain the weight of three or four hundred pounds.

The specimen (No. 21,329) measures in length 29 inches, and weighs 16 pounds. It was described while in a fresh condition.

SYNONYMY.

Serranus-nigrinus, HOLBROOK, Ichthyology of South Carolina, p. 173, pl. xxv, fig. 2.—GÜNTHER, Catalogue of the Acauthopterygian Fishes in the Collection of the British Museum, I, 1859, p. 134.

Epinephelus nigrinus, GILL, Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 1865, p. 105; Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries for 1871-72, 1873, p. 806; Catalogue of the Fishes of the East Coast of North America, 1873, p. 23.

DESCRIPTION.

Diagnosis.—Body oblong, thick, tapering very gradually from the insertion of the dorsal and the end of the ventral. Its greatest height (behind ventrals) is contained three and one-sixth times in total length (caudal included) and about equal to length of head. The height of body at ventrals is slightly greater than one-third of total length with-

*This species is infested by the same parasite which is so common in the mouths of the common Menhaden in Southern waters, the *Cymothoa prægustator* (Latrobe) Say.