NOTE ON PLATESSA FERRIGINEA. D. H. STORER, AND PLATESSA
ROSTRATA, H. R. STORER.

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARETON H. BEAN.

In a paper on the Fishes of Nova Scotia and Labrador, published in
1857, Mr. H. R. Storer described a species of flounder under the name
Platessa rostrata. This species has been a puzzle to ichthyologists. Dr.
Günther, in 1862, ventured the remark, that it "appears to be allied to
Pleuronectes limanda."† Professor Gill, in 1861, referred it to his nominal
genus Myzopsetta, and in 1864 to Limanda.‡ While investigating the
fauna of the Nova Scotia coast in 1877, the naturalists of the United
States Fish Commission made especial efforts to find this species, but with-
out success, which was a matter of some surprise, since nearly all the
species recorded from the Gulf of St. Lawrence were observed in the course
of the summer.§ In 1878, several specimens were trawled in Massachu-
setts Bay, which were strongly suggestive of Storer's Platessa rostrata,
and which, upon comparison with his description, were found to agree
with it in every particular except that in relation to the relative size of
the scales on the superior portion of the operculum and the neighborhood
of the lateral line, a matter apparently of individual variation. A more
extended study of the subject has convinced us that the individuals at
first studied, as well as the ones described by H. R. Storer, should be
identified with Platessa ferruginea. D. H. Storer, a species which should
undoubtedly be referred to the genus Limanda of Gottsche. Limanda
was established by Gottsche in 1835 in Wiegmann's Archiv für Natur-
geschichte (p. 160), and is synonymous with Myzopsetta, described by
Professor Gill in 1864,|| distinguished by him from Limanda by the fol-
lowing characters: "snout retuse" (instead of "conic"); "mouth very
oblique" (instead of "moderately oblique").

* Observations on the Fishes of Nova Scotia and Labrador, with Descriptions of New
Species. By Horatio R. Storer. p. 268, pl. viii, fig. 2. <Boston Journal of Nat. Hist.,
vii, 1857, pp. 247-270, pl. vii, viii.
† Catalogue of the Fishes in the British Museum, iv, 1832, p. 147.
§ Regarding the habitat of Platessa rostrata, Storer wrote as follows: "With the
exception of one specimen at Red Bay, this species was met with only at Bras d'Or,
where it is very abundant, inhabiting however a far different region from the
(Platessa) plena just mentioned. Instead of sheltered bays and harbors, it delights in
the surf of the ocean beaches exposed to the waves of the whole Gulf, and is here
The following enumeration of the radial formulae of eleven specimens of *Limanda ferruginea* should be placed on record:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat. No.</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Dorsal rays</th>
<th>Anal rays</th>
<th>Pectoral rays</th>
<th>Ventral rays</th>
<th>Caudal rays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21620</td>
<td>Halifax, N. S.</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21962</td>
<td>Gloucester, Mass.</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21963</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>&quot;</td>
<td>do</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Certain individuals exhibit black spots instead of the ordinary markings of yellowish red; this may be sexual, but is more probably due to the color of the bottom on which they live. Adult individuals almost invariably exhibit markings of a lemon-yellow hue on the white under side of the body, contiguous to the tail.

The synonymy of the species stands as follows:

*Limanda ferruginea*, (Storer) Goode & Bean.


*Platessa rostrata*, H. R. STORER, Boston Journ. Nat. Hist. vi, 1850, p. 268, pl. viii, fig. 2.—GÜNTHER, op. cit, p. 447 (considers it to be allied to *Pleuronecta limanda*).


*Limanda ferruginea* is closely related to *Limanda vulgaris*, Göttsche, from which it is distinguished by its shorter pectorals, smaller scales, lower dorsal and anal fins, and the greater average number of rays in those fins. It is certainly a strongly marked geographical subspecies, and must for the present be regarded as a distinct species.

December, 1878.

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**ON THE IDENTITY OF BROSMIUS AMERICANUS, GILL, WITH BROSMIUS BROSME, (MÜLLER) WHITE.**

**By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON H. BEAN.**

Dr. D. H. Storer, in his Report on the Ichthyology and Herpetology of Massachusetts, published in 1839, catalogued the common cusk of the New England coast under the name *Brosmius vulgaris*, considering