

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

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON 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 without 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 Massachusetts 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 Naturgeschichte (p. 160), and is synonymous with *Myzopsetta*, described by Professor Gill in 1864, || distinguished by him from *Limanda* by the following 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 Journ. of Nat. Hist.*, vi, 1857, pp. 247-270, pl. vii, viii.

† Catalogue of the Fishes in the British Museum, iv, 1832, p. 447.

‡ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1864, p. 217.

§ 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*) *plana* 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 taken in great numbers at the drawing of the herring seines."—*Op. cit.* p. 269.

|| Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1864, p. 216 (in synopsis).

The following enumeration of the radial formulæ of eleven specimens of *Limanda ferruginea* should be placed on record:

Cat. No.	Locality.	Dorsal rays.	Anal rays.	Pectoral rays.		Ventral rays.	Caudal rays.
				Right.	Left.		
21020	Halifax, N. S.	85	65	12	6	18
"	do.	81	59	11	10	6	18
"	do.	79	57	11	10	6	18
"	do.	85	63	11	10	6	18
21902	Gloucester, Mass.	83	63	10	10	6	18
21903	do.	87	66	12	11	6
"	do.	89	60	13	12	6
"	do.	82	61	11	11	6
"	do.	83	61	11	11	6
"	do.	73	58	11	10	6
"	do.	76	59	11	10	6

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 ferruginea. STORER, Report on the Ichthyology and Herpetology of Massachusetts, 1839, p. 41, pl. 2.—DEKAY, Zoology of New York, Fishes, 1842, p. 297, pl. xlvi, fig. 155.

Pleuronectes ferrugineus, GÜNTHER, Catalogue of the Fishes in the British Museum, iv, 1862, p. 447.

Myxopsella ferruginea, GILL, Catalogue Fishes of Eastern Coast N. A. 1861, p. 51; Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1864, p. 217.

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 *Pleuronectes limanda*).

Myxopsella rostrata, GILL, Catalogue Fishes of Eastern Coast N. A. 1861, p. 51.

Limanda rostrata, GILL, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1864, p. 217.

Limanda ferruginea is closely related to *Limanda vulgaris*, Gottsche, 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.

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ON THE IDENTITY OF *BROSMIUS AMERICANUS*, GILL, WITH *BROSMIUS BROSMIE*, (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