

ON THE GENERIC RELATIONS OF *PLATYRHINA EXASPERATA*.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

A short time since a small ray was described by the present writers, from San Diego, under the name of *Platyrhina exasperata*. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1880, —.) Soon after a second species was described by us, from Santa Barbara, as *Platyrhina triseriata*. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1880, —.)

The two species are certainly not congeneric. The former species has the skin above covered with stellated prickles of different sizes, and resembles the genus *Raia*. The latter is covered over by a uniform fine shagreen, and resembles the species of *syrrhina* and *rhinobatus*. So far as we can ascertain from the description given by Duméril and Günther of *Platyrhina sinensis* and *Platyrhina schænleini*, these two species agree with *Platyrhina triseriata* in the character of the dermal covering, as well as in form of body. We propose therefore to consider *Platyrhina exasperata* as the type of a distinct genus, *Zapteryx*, distinguished from *Platyrhina* by the presence of detached, unequal, stellated prickles on the skin above, instead of the uniform shagreen covering found in *Platyrhina*, and from *Raia* by the convex outline of the ventrals and by the greater development of the dorsal and caudal fins. In *Raia* the ventrals are always emarginate.

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REMARKS ON THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS *CHIRUS* FOUND IN SAN FRANCISCO MARKET, INCLUDING ONE HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED.

By W. N. LOCKINGTON.

Four species of the genus *Chirus* occur in the markets of this city. The two most abundant of these are *C. constellatus* and *C. guttatus* Grd. Of the others, one is *C. pictus* Grd., while the other has until now remained undescribed.

*C. pictus* is separated from the others by some sufficiently obvious external characters, beside those of color, as will be evident from the subsequent remarks, but the writer is unable to find any constant character except that of the coloration by which to distinguish the other three species.

As, however, he has now seen several hundred examples of *C. guttatus* and *C. constellatus*, and a large number of both the other species, and as, notwithstanding the considerable variation in the size, number, and position of the marking of each species, neither on any occasion shows the slightest tendency to approach the pattern of another, he submits that in this group the pattern of the coloration may be considered specific.