

*Radial formula.*—D. VII, I, 9; A. II, 7½; P. 16; V, I, 5.

*Scales*, in lateral line, 45; above lateral line, 3; below, 9.

*Color* nearly uniform light, reddish brown, with no blotches. Scales finely punctulate with black. —/l

Our description is based upon museum specimen No. 26228.

Among the other interesting forms collected in the same locality is a young specimen of *Hoplostethus mediterraneus*, and also a species of *Scorpaena*, soon to be described.

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#### METALLIC CASTINGS OF DELICATE NATURAL OBJECTS.

[Translated.]

The following process is recommended by Abbass for producing metallic castings of flowers, leaves, insects, &c. The object, a dead beetle for example, is first arranged in a natural position, and the feet are connected with an oval rim of wax. It is then fixed in the centre of a paper or wooden box by means of pieces of fine wire, so that it is perfectly free, and thicker wires are run from the sides of the box to the object, which subsequently serve to form air-channels in the mold by their removal. A wooden stick, tapering toward the bottom, is placed upon the back of the insect to produce a runner for casting. The box is then filled up with a paste of three parts of plaster of Paris, and one of brick-dust, made up with a solution of alum and sal ammoniac. It is also well first to brush the object with this paste to prevent the formation of air bubbles. After the mold thus formed has set, the object is removed from the interior by first reducing it to ashes. It is therefore dried slowly, and finally heated gradually to a red heat, and then allowed to cool slowly to prevent the formation of flaws or cracks. The ashes are removed by pouring mercury into the cold mold and shaking it thoroughly before pouring it out, and repeating this operation several times. The thicker wires are then drawn out, and the mold needs simply to be thoroughly heated before it is filled with metal in order that the latter may flow into all portions of it. After it has become cold it is softened and carefully broken away from the casting.

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#### THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CANADA PORCUPINE IN MARYLAND.

By OTTO LUGGER.

Referring to the paper on the occurrence of the Canada Porcupine in West Virginia by Mr. Goode, in Vol. I, Proceedings U. S. National Museum, page 264, I wish to mention that this Porcupine, *Erethizon dorsatus*, is still, though rarely, found in Maryland. In the museum of the Maryland Academy of Sciences is a specimen from Alleghany