

## NOTE ON THE POMATOMIDÆ.

BY THEODORE GILL.

In 1862, in a "Synopsis of the Carangoids of the Eastern Coast of North America" (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1862, pp. 430-443), the family of Carangoids was limited, the chief subfamilies defined, and one established for the blue-fish and named "Pomatominae," but the statement was made that "although the genus *Pomatomus* Lac. (*Temnodon* Cuv.) is here retained in the family, I am not certain that it truly belongs to it" (p. 430). Two years later I proposed and defined a peculiar family for the genus. In the catalogue of the fishes of the eastern coast of North America, in 1873, it was intended to have been placed, as were all the families 60-65, among the Acanthopteri "incertæ sedis," but through some inadvertence the word "incertæ sedis" was omitted. In order to determine the affinities of the doubtful form, I have re-examined the fish and its skeleton, and am now satisfied that the approximation of the type to the Carangidæ was correct, but still believe that it should be regarded as a peculiar family group. Pending a more detailed comparative study of the Scombroids, this may be briefly diagnosed as follows:

## POMATOMIDÆ.

*Synonym as family.*= Pomatomidæ, *Gill*, Can. Nat., n. s., v. 2, p. 246 (defined), 249, Aug., 1865.= Pomatomidæ, *Gill*, Cat. Fishes E. Coast N. Am., p. 10 (name only), 1873.*Synonym as subfamily.*= Pomatominae, *Gill*, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. [v. 14,] pp. 431 (defined), 443, 1862.

Scombroidea of Carangoid aspect, with the lateral line nearly parallel with the back (not angulated toward the middle) and elevated behind, and continuous on the base of the caudal; soft vertical fins densely scaly, and anal spines inseparable from the rayed portion.

## NOTE ON THE AFFINITIES OF THE EPHIPPIIDS.

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The Ehippiids, although presenting a superficial resemblance to the Chætodontids, otherwise exhibit such peculiarities as to have made me doubtful respecting their affinities, and to consider the family as incertæ sedis. The post-temporal bones were found to be bifurcated and thus failed to fulfill the requisites of Professor Cope's suborder Epilasmia wherein the Chætodontidæ were arranged. To satisfy myself as to