

NOTE ON THE GENERA OF PETROMYZONTIDÆ.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

In the Proceedings of the National Museum for 1882, p. 521, is a review of the genera of Lampreys, by Dr. Gill. In the analysis of the genera several characters not hitherto recognized have been noticed, and the paper is a substantial addition to our knowledge of these animals. The characters drawn from the dentition of the supraoral lamina are, however, unreliable for the distinction of genera. Thus in *Petromyzon* and *Ammocætes* this lamina is said to be bicuspid, while in *Ichthyomyzon* and *Entosphenus* it is described as tricuspoid. In *Petromyzon* and *Entosphenus*, so far as we have noticed, the description given by Professor Gill fully applies. In *Ichthyomyzon* the supraoral lamina is bicuspid in the common species, *I. argenteus*, but tricuspoid in *I. castaneus* and *I. hirudo*, species not generically distinct from *I. argenteus*, and whose specific validity, indeed, may be questioned. *Ammocætes* usually has a broad supraoral lamina, with a tooth at each end, but very often, at least in our common species *A. niger*, there is also a median cusp, as in *Entosphenus*. We have no doubt that *Ammocætes* (as understood by Dr. Gill) should be generically separated from *Petromyzon*. The characters of *Ichthyomyzon* and of *Entosphenus* are, however, of less importance. The teeth of *Ichthyomyzon* are all essentially as in *Petromyzon*, but proportionately smaller, weaker, and with less developed points and serræ. The same is nearly true of the teeth of *Ammocætes* in comparison with those of *Entosphenus*. *Petromyzon* and *Entosphenus* are large marine species, ascending fresh waters only to spawn (or occasionally land-locked), while *Ichthyomyzon* and *Ammocætes* are their respective fresh-water representatives, smaller, weaker, and less specialized. Convenience is probably best served by recognizing all four groups as genera.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, April 8, 1883.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW MURENOID EEL (*SIDERA CHLEVASTES*)
FROM THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.

By DAVID S. JORDAN and CHARLES H. GILBERT.

Sidera chlevastes sp. nov. (20385).

Body little elongate, strongly compressed. Head rather small, somewhat compressed. Teeth rather strong, most of them slender and sharp; their edges entire. Teeth of lower jaw uniserial, directed strongly backwards, close set, slightly increasing in size posteriorly; about 14 on each side.

Teeth of upper jaw biserial, for most of its length; the teeth of the