

5. As most of the skeletal characters change by degrees, none of them are of much use in defining genera.

6. Those skeletal characters apparently of most importance are in the structure of the mouth, the breadth of the frontal region (*Percina*), the number of vertebrae, and the outline of a transverse section of the skull across the parietals, whether , as in *Boleosoma*, &c., or , as in *Etheostoma*. The prolongation of the frontals in *Etheostoma flabellare* and in *Hadropterus phoxocephalus* and its shortness in *Etheostoma zonale* seem to be purely specific characters. The development of the nearly obsolete supraoccipital crest, the distinctness of the sutures, and the sculpture of the parietals are features which offer no basis for trenchant division, except, perhaps, as distinguishing *Percina* from all the others.

6. As defined by skeletal characters alone, we may distinguish *Percina*, *Etheostoma*, *Microperca*, and perhaps *Diplesion* and *Ammocrypta* from the rest as distinct genera. The other groups, if retained, must be separated from these and from each other by other characters.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, March 3, 1885.

NOTE ON THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE YELLOW PERCH, THE STRIPED BASS, AND OTHER NORTH AMERICAN FISHES.

By DAVID S. JORDAN.

By the rules of nomenclature now adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union (rules which the present writer proposes to follow in future ichthyological papers), certain names now in current use in North American Ichthyology become untenable. The following cases come under the rule, which has been thus formulated, "Once a synonym, always a synonym."

1. The name *Perca americana* (Schranck 1794) is antedated by *Perca americana* Gmelin (= *Roccus (Morone) americanus*). The yellow Perch must therefore stand apparently as *Perca lutea*. The name *Centropomus luteus*, Rafinesque, "Précis des Découvertes Somnologiques, 1814," is apparently prior to that of *Bodianus flavescens*, Mitchill, 1815.

2. The name *Perca saxatilis*, Bloch & Schneider is similarly antedated by *Perca saxatilis* of Bloch, which is a species of *Crenicichla*. The name next in date is that of *Perca septentrionalis*, Bloch & Schneider, Syst. Ichth., 90. The Striped Bass may therefore stand as *Roccus septentrionalis*.

3. Similarly the species described by Girard as *Gobius gracilis* is different from the earlier *Gobius gracilis* of Jenyns. The former should stand as *Lepiogobius lepidus*, from the later name of *Gobius lepidus*, Grd.

4. *Lepadogaster reticulatus*, Girard is preoccupied by *Lepadogaster re-*

ticulatus, Risso. The later name, *Gobiesox nuvandricus*, (Girard) should therefore be used instead of *Gobiesox reticulatus*.

5. *Cyprinus americanus*, Linnaeus, in the Tenth Edition of the *Systema Naturæ* is a *Menticirrus*, while the species of the same name in the Twelfth Edition is a *Notemigonus*. The name *Notemigonus americanus*, based on the latter, should thus give way to *Notemigonus bosci*, (Cuv. & Val.), or better *Notemigonus chrysoleucus bosci*.

6. *Catostomus carpio*, Rafinesque, an *Ictiobus*, has priority over *C. carpio*, Cuv. & Val., a *Moxostoma*. The latter species having no synonyms, may receive the new name of *Moxostoma valenciennesi* instead of *Moxostoma carpio*.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, March 4, 1885.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PLECTROMUS (P. CRASSICEPS) TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION.

By TABLETON H. BEAN.

Curator of the Department of Fishes.

Of this new species a single example, number 33553, was obtained in the greatest depth explored by the Albatross (2,949 fathoms); it is only 48 millimeters long, and in very bad condition. Fortunately the same vessel took three larger and better preserved individuals of the same species, which are numbered 33378, 33509, and 34835, respectively; these are from stations 2075, 2094, and 2106, the depths being 855, 1,022, and 1,497 fathoms. The large examples are made the basis of the description which follows:

PLECTROMUS CRASSICEPS, n. s.

33378. 1 specimen; latitude $41^{\circ} 40' 30''$ N.; longitude $65^{\circ} 35'$ W.; September 3, 1883.
 33509. 1 specimen; latitude $39^{\circ} 44' 30''$ N.; longitude $71^{\circ} 04'$ W.; September 21, 1883.
 34835. 1 specimen; latitude $37^{\circ} 41' 20''$ N.; longitude $73^{\circ} 03' 20''$ W.; Nov. 6, 1883.

The species resembles *Melanphaës megalops*, Lütken, from which it differs in having a much smaller eye, larger scales, and shorter ventrals. (Dr. Lütken's species, which he referred only after much hesitation to *Melanphaës*, is, in all probability, congeneric with *Plectromus suborbitalis*, Gill.) The length of the head equals $\frac{1}{3}$, and the height of the body $\frac{2}{7}$ of the total length without caudal. The eye is about $\frac{2}{5}$ as long as the head. The maxilla extends to, or slightly beyond, the vertical through the hind margin of the eye. The pectoral is as long as the head and more than twice as long as the ventral, which does not quite reach to the vent. The scales are large and mostly wanting in the typical examples; there are about 25 rows in a longitudinal series. D. ii, 11-12; A. i, 8-9; V. 8; P. 15.

The specimens are uniformly dark (nearly black) in spirits, except on the fins, which are somewhat lighter at the margins.