

NOTE ON THE GENUS HIATULA OF LACÉPÈDE OR TAUTOGA OF MITCHILL.

BY

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In the twelfth edition of the "Systema Nature," p. 475, Linnaeus named a Labroid fish *Labrus hiatula*: the name was based on "a half-skin without anal fin," still preserved in the Linnean collection, and which was recognized by Messrs. Goode and Bean as the *Tautoga onitis*. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1882, p. 571), after it had already been identified with it by previous authors. Upon this fish Lacépède (v. 2, p. 522) based a genus for which he appropriated the name *Hiatula*. In 1883 (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1882, p. 571), Messrs. Jordan and Gilbert proposed to replace the generic name *Tautoga* of Mitchill, previously generally used, by *Hiatula* and under the name *Hiatula onitis* the species was entered in their "Synopsis of the Fishes of North America" (p. 600) and in many later publications. The name itself and the incidents connected with it are so repugnant to one's sense of propriety that doubtless all that have adopted it have done so with reluctance. The fact that it need not be retained, or rather that it can not be legitimately retained, will therefore doubtless be welcomed.

The name *Hiatula* has been given to four different associations of species or peculiar species, viz :

HIATULA.

Martini, Verzeichniss einer auserlesenen Sammlung von Naturalien und Kunstsachen u. s. w., p. 141, 1774 (*Solen*, etc.).

Modeer, K. Vet. Acad. Handl., p. 178, 1793.

Lacépède, Hist. Nat. Poissons, v. 2, p. 522, 1800.

Swainson, Elements Mod. Conch., p. 14, 1835 (*Agaronia* Gray.)

Inasmuch as Modeer at least was a binomial author, his name has unquestionable priority over Lacépède's, and consequently precludes the adoption of the same for the genus of fishes, whatever may be thought of the merits of the genus proposed for the bivalve shells. Modeer's name has been adopted, however, by various recent authorities on Mollusks as the designation of the genus otherwise called *Soletellina*, or *Solenotellina*, by Blainville; among those who have thus adopted the name are Tryon in his Manual of Conchology (v. 3, p. 167), and Prof Hutton, in his "Revision of the Recent Lamellibranchiata of New Zealand" (Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, v. 9, p. 520, 1884).