

taille moindre des adultes, puisque quelques-uns de ces embryons offrent déjà un rudiment de huppe frontale analogue à celle que possède le jeune Lophioïde, dépourvu non-seulement de ventrales, mais aussi de dorsale et d'anale, indiquant ainsi, selon toute probabilité, l'existence d'un type générique nouveau, que l'on ne tardera point à découvrir à l'état adulte, à mesure que l'étude justement commencée de la faune abyssale de l'océan aura fait de nouveaux progrès. Peut-être aussi que le "*Ceratias uranoscopus*" annoncé comme dragué par l'expédition si fameuse du "Challenger" à la profondeur surprenante de 2400 brasses, entre les îles Canaries et du Cap Vert, sera reconnu comme formant un genre à part—à en juger par une photographie (reproduite en xylographie dans "The Atlantic" de Sir Ch. Wyville-Thomson, II, p. 69), qui m'a été communiquée avec la plus grande obligeance par feu M. Willemoës-Suhm, dont la mort prématurée a été tant déplorée par ses amis et par ceux de la science.

"On trouvera dans le rapport préliminaire de M. Murray (Proc. Roy. Soc., xxiv, p. 590-94) des renseignements sur les profondeurs des huit localités où ont été dragues, lors du voyage du "Challenger" des Lophioïdes bathyphiles, en partie probablement nouveaux pour la science. Dans son rapport préliminaire sur les draguages exécutés, en 1878, dans les profondeurs du Golfe de Mexique, M. Al. Agassiz fait mention d'un poisson ressemblant à un tétard énorme à tête ronde, gigantesque, cartilagineuse et sans yeux, et de quelques autres à tête allongée et déprimée, aux yeux très petits et à filaments énormes pendant des extrémités des rayons des nageoires pectorales et caudal."

NOTE ON THE MALTHEIDÆ.

By THEODORE GILL.

Since the publication of the great systematic works on fishes, the family of *Maltheidæ* has received a couple of notable additions which furnish a good idea of the range of variation occurring in the group and at the same time fully corroborate the justness of the segregation of its members under two distinct families. The distinctions thus apparent are indicated in the following analysis. All the genera are monotypic except *Malthe*.

MALTHEIDÆ.

- 1a. Body with disk cordiform and caudal portion stout; frontal region elevated, and snout more or less produced or attenuated forwards.....MALTHEINÆ.
Malthe.
- 1b. Body with disk subcircular or expanded backwards and caudal portion slender; frontal region depressed, and snout rounded and obtuse in front.
HALIEUTÆINÆ.
- 2a. Palate edentulous; rostral tentacle developed; carpus exerted from common membrane.
- 3a. Disk subtriangular; mouth small; branchiæ reduced to 2 pairs (I, 0; II, 1-1; III, 1-1; IV, 0-0).....*Dibranchus*.

- 3b. Disk subcircular; mouth large; branchiæ in $2\frac{1}{2}$ pairs (I, 0; II, 1—1; III, 1—1; IV, 1—0).....*Halieutæa*.
 2b. Palate denticulate; rostral tentacle obsolete; carpus inclosed in common membrane.
 3. Disk subcircular; mouth small.....*Halieutichthys*.

The genera have been made known as follows:—

MALTHEINÆ.

MALTHE.

Malthe, Cuvier, Règne Animal, 1^e éd., t. 2, 311, 1817.

Malthea, Cuvier & Valenciennes, Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 12, p. 438, 1837.

Type: *Malthe vespertilio*.

Atlantic coasts of America from Brazil to Labrador.

HALIEUTÆINÆ.

DIBRANCHUS.

Dibranchus Peters, Monatsber. K. Akad. Wissensch. Berlin, 1875, p. 736.

Type: *Dibranchus atlanticus* Peters.

Atlantic Ocean, in deep water, near the coast of Africa.

HALIEUTÆA.

Halieutæa Cuv. & Val., Hist. Nat. des Poissons, t. 12, p. 455, 1837.

Astrocanthus Swainson, Nat. Hist. and Class. Fishes, etc., v. 2, p. —, 1839.

Type: *Halieutæa stellata* Val. & Wahl.

Pacific Ocean, off China and Japan.

HALIEUTICHTHYS.

Halientichthys, Poey, Gill, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phila., [v. 15,] pp. 89, 90, 1863.

Type: *Halientichthys reticulatus* Poey.

Atlantic Ocean, off the Island of Cuba.

NOVEMBER 9, 1878.

CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, FROM COLLECTIONS MADE FOR THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, BY MR. FRED. A. OBER, WITH HIS OBSERVATIONS.

By GEORGE N. LAWRENCE.

These collections were made by Mr. Ober in August and September, 1877. They were left in charge of the United States consul at Antigua, to be forwarded to Washington when an opportunity offered, and were sent soon thereafter; but from want of a proper notification or some other cause, their arrival was not known, and they were supposed to have gone astray.

In July of this year, they were ascertained to be in a public store in Brooklyn, where they had been since November, 1877.

The only bird sent of special interest is a species of Burrowing Owl from Antigua, which, on investigation, I considered to be undescribed.

The names given by Mr. Ober, with his observations, are inclosed in quotation-marks.



Gill, Theodore. 1878. "Note on the Maltheidae." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 1(34), 231–232.

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