GASTROBRANCHUS CÆCUS.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Spiracula duo ventralia.

Bloch. ichth. 12. append. p. 50.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

GASTROBRANCHUS oculis carens.

Bloch. ichth. 12. append. p. 51.

MYXINE glutinosa.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1080.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3082.

Mus. Ad. Frid. 1. p. 91. t. 8. f. 4.

Myxines glutinosæ nomine vermibus adjunxit Linnæus animal in tabula depictum, a Blochio rectius piscibus annumeratum, instituto ei novo genere, quod dicitur *Gastrobranchus*. Mirum est Linnæum aliosque phycos ab hoc non discriminaſſe *Lampetram cæcam Willughbeii*; quam quoque re-præſentari ab effigie quæ exſtat in Pennanti Zoologia Britannica exiſtimat Blochius, nequaquam vero *Gastrobranchum* noſtrum, ſeu veram *Myxinem glutinoſam* Linnæi. Longum eſſe *Gastrobranchum* ſeu *Myxinem* paucas uncias tradunt Linnæus aliiſque.

In Museo tamen Britannico conspici possit specimen fere æquale mediocri anguillæ; et in celeberrimi Josephi Banksii pinacotheca, in qua nempe reponuntur icones animalium australium, depingitur Gastrobranchus communi anguillæ certe non minor. Verisimile est igitur magnitudine multum variare, et Europeis longe majora esse antarctica specimina. Adeo glutine abundat mirum hoc animal, ut aquam marinam gelatam brevi reddat. Generatur in maribus tum septentrionalibus tum australibus. Privatur omnino oculis: quod fortasse Linnæum aliosque in errorem duxit, quibus nihil differre visum est inter hoc et Lampetram cæcam Willughbeii. Lampetræ tamen non desunt prorsus oculi licet minimi sint. Plane igitur constat genus *Myxenem* a vermibus debere ablegari; supra enim vidimus ad pisces referendum esse, ad pisces nempe cartilageos, five *nantes* Linnæi.

Figura secunda monstrat partem anticam dissectam et apertam, ut de formatione duplicis seriei dentium, nec non de simplici dente curvato in medio palati superioris melius et commodius possit inquiri.

THE
GLUTINOUS GASTROBRANCHUS.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Mouth terminal, furnished with cirri or beards.

Teeth in a double pectinated row on each side:

Upper tooth single, sharp, in the roof of the mouth.

Body anguilliform, carinated beneath by a soft fin.

Two *Ventral Spiracula*.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Eel-shaped GASTROBRANCHUS without eyes.

The Glutinous HAG.

Penn^t. Zool. Brit. 4. p. 33.

The HAG-FISH, or Slime-Worm.

Der BLINDFISCH.

Bloch. ichth. t. 413.

The animal which forms the subject of the present plate was by Linnæus ranked amongst the *Vermes*, under the title of *Myxine glutinosa*. Dr. Bloch however has with great propriety given it its true rank

rank amongst Fishes, and has instituted for it the genus *Gastrobranchus*. It is remarkable that a very different animal has by Linnæus and others been confounded with it : viz. a small species of *Petromyzon* or Lamprey ; (*Lampetra cæca*. Will. ichth.) The figure also in the British Zoology is, according to Dr. Bloch, by no means the *Gastrobranchus*, (*Myxine glutinosa*, Lin.) but the above-mentioned small species of *Petromyzon*. Linnæus and others have also described the *Gastrobranchus* (*Myxine*) as seldom exceeding the length of a few inches ; yet in the British Museum is a specimen not less than a middle-sized eel : and in a collection of drawings of South-Sea animals in the possession of Sir Joseph Banks, a figure occurs of the same animal at least as large as a common eel. We may therefore conclude that it varies very greatly in size, and that the European specimens fall far short of the Antarctic ones. When placed in a vessel of sea water this fish soon renders it gelatinous, being of an uncommonly glutinous nature. It is found in the Mediterranean and the northern seas, as well as in those of the southern hemisphere. It is entirely destitute of eyes, which seems to have been the reason of Linnæus and others having confounded it with the *Lampetra cæca* of Willughby above mentioned, in which fish however there are eyes, though very small ones.

It must be unnecessary to add that the genus *Myxine* amongst the Vermes must be now exploded ; the animal belonging, as we have seen, to the division of Cartilaginous Fishes, or *Nantes* of Linnæus.

The

The second figure represents the fore-part of the animal opened, in order to shew the structure and situation of the double rows of teeth; as well as the single curved tooth in the middle of the roof of the mouth.

Shaw, George. 1798. "The Glutinous Gastrobranchus, *Gastrobranchus cæcus* [Pl. 362]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304544>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/276641>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304544>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/304544>

Holding Institution

Museums Victoria

Sponsored by

Atlas of Living Australia

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.