DESCRIPTION OF GOBIOIDES BROUSSONETI, A FISH NEW TO NORTH AMERICA, FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO.

By Tarleton H. Bean and Barton A. Bean.

This species, originally described by Lacépède from Peru, and afterwards obtained by Brevoort from Para, South America, is now for the first time recorded from North America. The species can not be referred to the genus *Amblyopus*, which has for its type the *A. hermannianus* of Lacépède. The latter has rudimentary eyes, a short body, and the dorsal and anal many rayed.

Diagnosis.—D. VI, 17; A. I, 16.—The total length of the specimen is 14½ inches, the caudal fin being 2¾ inches long.

The greatest depth of the body (see fig. 1) equals one-half the length of the head, and is contained fourteen times in the total length without caudal. The greatest depth of the head equals the length of the upper jaw, or about one-half the length of head without snout. The body is compressed. Its greatest thickness is contained one and two-thirds times in its greatest depth. The teeth are in narrow bands in each jaw,

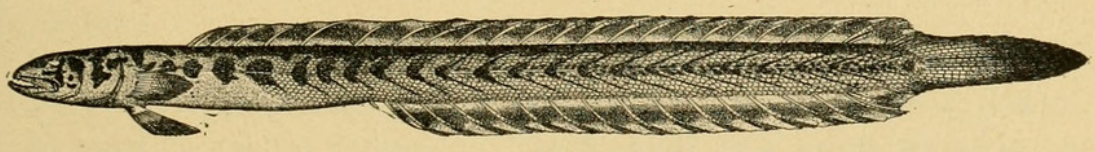

Fig. 1.

GOBIOIDES BROUSSONETI.

About two-sevenths natural size.

some of those in the outer row enlarged, canine like, and curved inward. All of the teeth are more or less curved inward and depressible. The vomer and palate are toothless. The mouth is oblique, the lower jaw projecting slightly beyond the upper. The maxilla extends well behind the eye; its length is slightly more than half that of head without the snout. It is not much expanded posteriorly. Eyes very small, their diameter equaling half length of snout, about equal to width of interorbital space. The snout scarcely equals more than a fifth of the head's length. Gill openings wide, the membranes wholly joined to the isthmus.

Branchiostegals much curved, four in number. The dorsal begins at a distance from the nape equal to the postorbital part of the head, the origin being about over the end of the extended pectoral. The ventral reaches farther back than the pectoral, and is longer than that fin, its length equaling postorbital part of head. The distance of the vent from the tip of the snout equals somewhat more than three times the length of the head; it is under the interspace between the last spine and first ray of the dorsal, with a small genital papilla behind it. The caudal is very long and tapering, one and two-thirds times as long as the head. The dorsal spines are long and slender, the fifth nearly as long as the post-orbital part of the head. The second dorsal ray is slightly longer. The anal rays are about as long as those of the dorsal. The scales are thin, not imbricated, except on the posterior part of the head, where they are long and elliptical in shape. The head and breast are naked.

Color.—The colors have faded out in alcohol; the ground color appears to have been light brown, with darker blotches on the median line of the body under the spinous portion of the dorsal and the anterior part of the soft dorsal.

The specimen here described was obtained in the Gulf of Mexico and presented to the Museum by Mr. Robert S. Day, of New Orleans, La. It was received June 30, 1885, and is No. 38220, U. S. National Museum.

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