

These are the explanations offered at present, but they open up new questions. How is it possible, for instance, for the bathypelagic fishes to find their food in the dark, sparsely populated, water-layers? Clearly we can advance no farther in this field without more knowledge gathered from new and extensive investigations. Even with our present knowledge, and accepting the explanations given as perfectly correct, many questions arise in regard to details. I will mention one very interesting instance.

Pelagic fishes
living near
the bottom.

During the "Challenger" Expedition some specimens were captured of a certain blind fish (*Ipnops murrayi*), which was taken in the trawl only at great depths, between 3000 and 4000 metres. As already mentioned, the "Michael Sars" also captured a small blind fish, apparently a near ally of *Ipnops*, which we have called *Bathymicrops regis* (see Fig. 305, p. 416). *Ipnops* and *Bathymicrops* both belong to the family Scopelidæ, and among allied forms we find a remarkable series in respect to the development of the eyes. This series has been represented in Fig. 501, *a* to *e* :—

a represents the head of *Chlorophthalmus productus*, Gthr., taken at Fiji in 575 metres.

b represents the head of *Bathypterois dubius*, Vaill., taken by the "Talisman" at the Canaries, and by the "Michael Sars" at Station 41 between 843 and 1635 metres.

c shows the head of *Benthosaurus grillator*, G. and B., taken off America, and by the "Michael Sars" at Station 53 in about 3000 metres.

d shows the head of *Bathymicrops regis*, n.g., n.sp., taken by the "Michael Sars" in about 5000 metres.

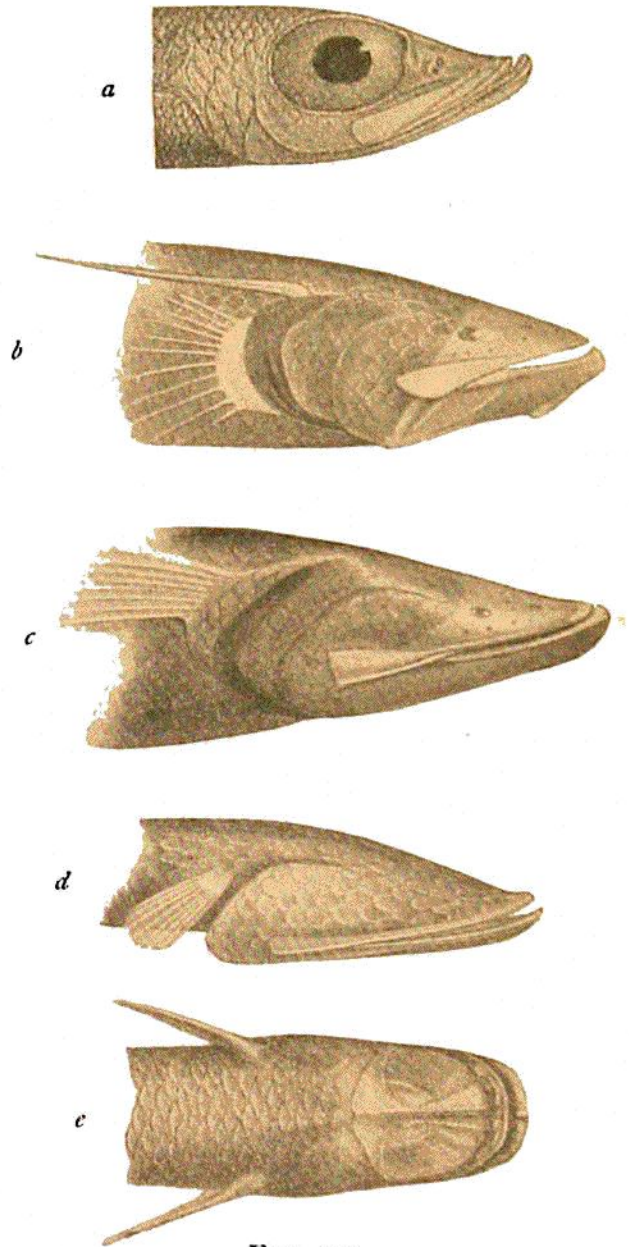


FIG. 501.
DEVELOPMENT OF EYES IN SCOPELIDS.