

be classified in three groups: (1) the large ones, (2) an intermediate group, and (3) the small ones or fry, and when fishing we will very seldom be uncertain as to which group we may refer the fishes captured. It is impossible to apply the rule to both sexes, but the males seem on the average to be somewhat smaller than the females, and also less numerous. Among the larger sizes of the blennies, the longest ones seem to be sparingly represented. Notwithstanding all my exertions in various localities, I have never been able at this time of the year (summer) to find blennies of less length than the ones recorded under the head of fry, that is, about 3 to 4 inches. As the fry, when born, are actually $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, I cannot doubt that the group of small blennies, which at this time of the year differ so considerably in size from the large ones, really are the fry of the year, which during the last six months have grown to this size, that is, have added a couple of inches to their length. It appears equally natural to consider the intermediate group of blennies, between 6 and 8 inches, as the fry of the previous year. The direct consequence is that all the large blennies between 10 and 12 inches are of an age exceeding one year and a half by one year at

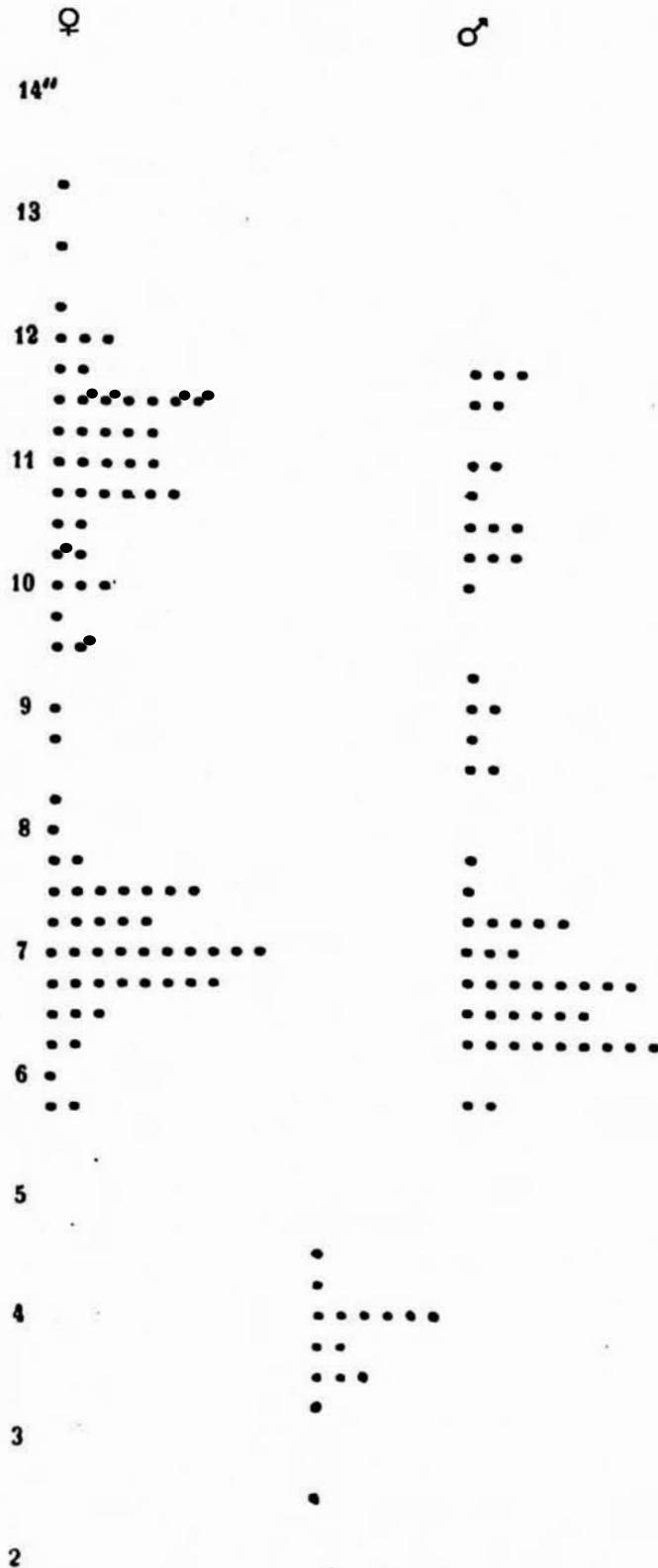


FIG. 553.—PETERSEN'S MEASUREMENTS OF *ZOARCES VIVIPARUS*.