

than deep, the lateral line terminating in a black-coloured keel. The length of the head is less than one-third of the total (without caudal); its upper surface is broad, flat, striated; frontal bones diverging behind, leaving a broad space between them which is covered by skin; this space tapers in front, and is closed between the orbits. Maxillary entirely hidden by the præorbital. Jaws and teeth strong; vomerine teeth none; tongue rough. The diameter of the eye is two-thirds of the width of the interorbital space, and two-fifths of the length of the postorbital portion of the head. Body stout, not much compressed. Pectoral fin as long as the postorbital portion of the head. Ventral fin midway between the root of the caudal and the eye. The middle and hinder dorsal and anal rays subequal in length, short, the last terminating at a considerable distance from the root of the caudal. Caudal fin deeply lobed. Scales very small, irregular, and adherent. A single specimen, 3 feet long.

Syngnathus pelagicus, Osbeck. Gulf weed, South of Bermuda.

C. TEMPERATE ZONE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

1. MOUTH OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA.

The fishes of this river, as well as of the shores near its mouth, are very incompletely known, more so than those of the southernmost extremity of the Continent. Therefore, we may well expect considerable additions to be made by future explorers of this fauna; one-half of the species collected by the Challenger Expedition at this locality, on its homeward journey (February 25 and 26, 1876), have proved to be undescribed.

Raja platana, n. sp. (Pl. III.).

Snout long, produced, pointed, the width of the interorbital space being a little more than one-third of the distance of the eye from the end of the snout. The anterior profile (from the snout to the angle of the pectoral fin) is undulated. Width of the interorbital space less than the length of the eye and spiracle together. Mouth strongly curved. Teeth pointed, in about forty-eight series in the upper jaw. Distance between the nostril and the angle of the mouth two-thirds of the inter-nasal space. The outer pectoral angle is a right one. Distance between the two dorsal fins rather more than the length of the base of the first. Bands of minute asperities along each side of the snout, and along each superciliary edge. The remainder of the upper side is smooth, with the exception of the claw-like spines on the pectoral fin which are peculiar to the male sex. A series of small spines along the median line of the tail. Lower parts with large black pores symmetrically arranged. Upper parts uniform brownish, lower whitish.