

The pectoral is as long as the head, and more than twice as long as the ventral, which does not quite reach to the vent. Black.

*Habitat.*—Four specimens are known to have been obtained in the Central Atlantic:— at a depth of 855 fathoms, in lat.  $41^{\circ} 40' N.$ , long.  $65^{\circ} 35'$ ; at a depth of 1022 fathoms, in lat.  $39^{\circ} 44' N.$ , long.  $71^{\circ} 4'$ ; at a depth of 1497 fathoms, in lat.  $37^{\circ} 41' N.$ , long.  $73^{\circ} 3'$ ; and one at a depth of 2949 fathoms.

*Melamphaës suborbitalis.*

*Plectromus suborbitalis*, Gill, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 1884, vol. vi. p. 258.

D.  $\frac{3}{18}$ . A.  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

Elongate like the two preceding species. Black.

*Habitat.*—One specimen is known from the Central Atlantic, obtained by the United States S.S. "Albatross," at a depth of 1735 fathoms, in lat.  $38^{\circ} 52' N.$ , long.  $69^{\circ} 24'$ .

*Malacosarcus*, n. gen.

Head large and thick, with the bones very thin, and with wide and deep muciferous cavities; also the canal along the lateral line is much distended. Cleft of the mouth wide, obliquely descending backwards, with the jaws nearly equal in front. A narrow band of villiform teeth in both jaws; palate toothless. Eight branchiostegals, pseudo-branchiæ present. The edges of the præoperculum and the lower edge of the mandible with minute and distant spines. Scales extremely thin, not sculptured, deciduous, irregular, and of moderate size. One dorsal; caudal emarginate, with broad basal fold above and below; anal spines very feeble. Ventrals small, five-rayed, inserted at some distance behind the pectorals. Gills four; gill-laminæ short; gill-rakers long, needle-shaped.

Although this fish is only a degraded form of *Melamphaës*, it will be better to make it the type of a distinct genus, as otherwise the generic definition of *Melamphaës* would lose much in precision.

*Malacosarcus macrostoma.*

*Scopelus macrostoma*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 186.

B. 8. D. 13. A. 13. P. 10. V. 5.

The body is highest where it joins the head, and rather rapidly becomes lower towards the tail; its greatest depth is rather more than one-fourth of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head one-third. Head thick, with the snout