

wide, obliquely ascending, with projecting lower jaw. The jaws are armed with a very narrow band (which, posteriorly, becomes a single series) of small fine teeth of unequal size. The vomer and palatine bones are toothless. The maxillaries terminate at their upper and inner extremity in a pair of short pointed processes, which form peculiar fang-like projections in the inside of the mouth, in front of the vomer. Bones of the head thin, with wide muciferous cavities, the lower limb of the præoperculum denticulated. Eyes very large. Dorsal long, without spinous division; anal similar in form and composition; interrarial membrane very fragile. Pectorals large; ventral fins thoracic, with more than five rays (?). Branchiostegals seven; pseudobranchiæ.

To judge from external characters we may place this genus provisionally near *Brama*.

*Diretmus argenteus.*

*Diretmus argenteus*, Johns., *loc. cit.*, pl. xxxvi. fig. 1.

D. 27. A. 22. P. 18.

The specimen from Madeira, described in detail and well figured by Johnson, is still the only one known. This author ascribes to it, although with doubt, ten ventral rays, but the rays are much confused, broken, and split down to the base, so that their exact number cannot be ascertained. The spine is enlarged into a thin scalpel-shaped lamella, and marked with numerous oblique striæ.

It is evident from the structure of the cranial bones, the immense eyes, the black colour of the cavity of the mouth and pharynx, and also from the extreme scarcity of the fish, that this species belongs to the deep-sea fauna.

*Diretmus aureus.*

*Discus aureus*, Campbell, *loc. cit.*

D. 26. A. 21. P. 17.

I should be inclined to refer this fish, which is known from four specimens,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long, cast up on Hokitika beach (New Zealand), to the same species as the Madeiran specimen, but for the seeming absence of the enlarged ventral spine. This, of course, might also be accounted for by the less advanced age of the specimens. All the other differences as they appear in the description would probably disappear on a direct comparison of the examples. The perforations of the interrarial membrane of the dorsal and anal fins, which Campbell regards as an extraordinary character, may also be seen in the Madeiran type, and are due to the extremely delicate structure of the membrane.