

The dentition is truly formidable for so small a fish; the longest tooth is one anteriorly on the side of the mandible; in both our specimens only one is present either on the right or left of the jaw; its length is nearly one-third of that of the head. The next largest are those on the palate, where there are two on each side, beside several smaller ones. Smaller teeth are also implanted on the hinder part of the dentary bone. All the large teeth can be laid backwards.

A semicircular scale-like osseous lamella of extreme thinness covers the lower part of the cheek and is marked by very shallow concentric striæ.

The singular bone which supports the side of the anterior part of the abdomen is styliform, slightly curved backwards. It starts from the top of the occiput and descends towards the median line of the abdomen, which it reaches behind the pectoral fin. It is composed of the two-pronged supraclavicle (*scl*) which is fixed by ligaments to the occiput, and of three slender and needle-shaped postclavicles (*pcl*); the uppermost post-clavicle is suspended by ligaments from the supraclavicle, as is also the clavicle (*cl*). The rod lies immediately below the thin integument and its lower portion is quite free.

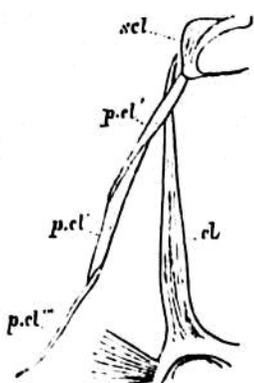


FIG. 6.—Scapular arch of *Omosudis* (enlarged).

The dorsal fin commences midway between the root of the caudal and the eye, and is composed of very feeble rays; the anal commences at some distance behind the dorsal and terminates not very far from the caudal. Caudal fin small, with a considerable number of basal rays above and below. Pectoral fins quite at the lower side of the body; ventral fins very small and partly coalescent.

Light brownish on the back with numerous brown pigment spots on the sides; abdomen black.

One of the two specimens (fig. C') has the abdomen excessively distended, having swallowed a *Sternoptyx* equal in bulk to its destroyer, and with a body the width of which is about twice that of the *Omosudis*. In the other specimen the abdominal integuments are longitudinally folded.

One specimen, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, was obtained south of the Philippine Islands, at Station 214, in a depth of 500 fathoms. But the existence of this singular form has been known to me since 1868, in which year I received from my late friend, the Rev. R. T. Lowe, a somewhat smaller example, which he had obtained at his favourite station, Magdalena, in the year previous. That specimen had its abdomen distended by the contents of its stomach, and was probably killed by the dorsal spine of the *Sternoptyx* penetrating the walls of the abdomen. Not only the head but also the hind part of the body were so much distorted and injured that it did not seem to me advisable to describe the genus from this specimen.