

*Platytroctes.*

*Platytroctes*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 249.

Body rather abbreviated, much compressed, and covered with small keeled scales. Mouth of moderate width; the maxillary, intermaxillary, and mandible armed with a single series of small teeth. Palate nearly smooth. Eye rather large. The dorsal and anal fins opposite to each other, on the tail, moderately long. Adipose fin absent. Caudal forked. Pectoral small. Ventrals none. Each clavicle terminates below in a long, projecting, acute spine, the two spines coalescent. Gill-opening wide; six branchiostegals. Gills very narrow, pseudobranchiæ present; gill-rakers long, lanceolate. Pyloric appendages rudimentary.

*Platytroctes apus* (Pl. LVIII. fig. A).

*Platytroctes apus*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 249.

D. 18. A. 17. P. 20. L. lat. ca. 100.

The height of the body is more than one-third of the total length (without caudal); the diameter of the eye one-third of the length of the head. The maxillary does not extend to below the middle of the eye.

*Habitat.*—Mid-Atlantic, Station 107; depth, 1500 fathoms. One specimen, 5½ inches long.

The body of this fish is much compressed and deep, but, singularly, the convex portions on the dorsal and ventral halves are merely a fold of the skin, into which neither the muscles nor the abdominal organs enter. The greatest depth of the body is at about the middle of its length, and contained in it twice and three-fourths, not including the caudal. The head is likewise compressed, of moderate dimensions, two-sevenths of the length of the body. Head longitudinally concave above, the concavity being bordered on each side by a perforated muciferous canal, and broadest behind, but tapering to a point between the nostrils. The bones of the head are rather thin, but less so than in *Bathytroctes*. Eye large, one-third of the length of the head, as long as the snout, and situated immediately below the upper profile. Infraorbital ring incomplete, the muciferous canal not being prolonged beyond the præorbital. Mouth rather small, with the lower jaw projecting when the mouth is open. Maxillary broad, short, extending to the front margin of the eye. Dentition very feeble; teeth uniserial, uniformly minute, occupying the whole extent of the intermaxillary and maxillary, but confined to the front part of the mandible; only a few rudimentary teeth are visible on the side of the mandible. Vomer with a minute tooth on each side; palatines toothless.

Branchiostegals extremely slender, curved. Gills four, the inner one very short;