

exceedingly elongate, band-shaped, and tapering into a point. Snout very short, pointed, flexible; one nostril in front of the small lateral eye.

Maxillary and mandible slender, armed with feeble teeth, in one or two more or less complete series; palate toothless. Gill-openings at some distance behind the head, close together, at the lower part of the side; branchial arches five; very short gills, extremely small. Dorsal and anal fins low, more or less rudimentary; pectorals very small.

The specimens observed are few in number, and to judge from the descriptions, referable to three species.

Saccopharynx ampullaceus (Pl. LXVI.).

Saccopharynx sp., Mitchill, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. i., 1824, p. 82.

Ophiognathus ampullaceus, Harwood, Phil. Trans., 1827, p. 52, pl. vii.

Saccopharynx flagellum, Cuv.,¹ R. an., 1829, vol. ii. p. 355.

„ „ Günth., Fish., vol. viii. p. 22.

„ *ampullaceus*, Johnson, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1862, vol. x. p. 277.

Both jaws are armed with slender, curved, widely-set teeth, irregularly uni- or bi-serial, their points being directed inwards. The length of the jaws is from one-third to one-seventh of the length of the body, that is, the distance from the vent to the extremity of the snout. The dorsal fin commences a long way behind the head, and a short distance in front of the vent; like the anal it may or may not reach the end of the tail, which terminates into an extremely delicate and thin filament. The small pectoral fin with some thirty very thin rays. Gill-opening an elongate slit. A bluish-white line runs on the back along each side of the base of the dorsal fin, and a similar line is sometimes distinct along the anal fin.

Of this species four specimens are known to have been captured:—

1. The fish described by Mitchill in 1824, which was taken in lat. 52° N. and long. 30° W.; it was discovered afloat in a helpless condition, having swallowed a fish 10 inches long. The body of this specimen was 14 and the tail 58 inches long. It does not seem to have been preserved.

2. The fish described by Harwood in 1827, which was taken in lat. 62° N. and long. 57° W.; it was discovered afloat in a helpless condition, “almost worn out by unavailing efforts to gorge a fish of about 7 inches in circumference.” This is the largest of the specimens known, its body having been about 20 and the tail 34 inches long. It does not seem to have been preserved.

3. The fish described by Johnson in 1862, which was taken off Madeira, under what circumstances Johnson could not learn, but probably also floating on the surface;

¹ Cuvier ascribes this specific name to Mitchill, as he speaks of the “*Saccopharynx flagellum de Mitchill*,” or of the “*Ophiognathus ampullaceus de Harwood*.”