

as the fin. Whether this is a peculiarity of the young stage, or whether it is persistent throughout life, cannot be ascertained at present.

Messrs. Goode and Bean described (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., x. 1883, p. 210) a species of *Prionotus* which also possesses prolonged pectoral rays, but in that species it is the ninth ray which is most prolonged, and the succeeding rays are graduated, decreasing in regular proportion.

Gobius sp.

A young specimen, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, which I am unable to determine specifically, was obtained by the trawl in the Arafura Sea, on September 12, 1874, from a log of wood to which it had attached itself. The capture of this Goby is worth recording, as one of the instances by which we become acquainted with the means of dispersal of the species of this genus.

Centriscus scolopax, L.

This species, as well as the closely allied *Centriscus gracilis* of Lowe, are truly pelagic fishes. The latter has been known to occur in the Mediterranean and various parts of the North and South Atlantic, in the Japanese and Chinese Seas, and in the South Sea.¹ As to *Centriscus scolopax*, I have ascertained its occurrence on the coasts of Tasmania as far back as the year 1876,² and two of the three specimens obtained by the Challenger Expedition on the passage from Sydney to Wellington evidently belong to the same species.

All three specimens are young (from 6 to 13 lines long), and their dorsal spine is conspicuously shorter and weaker than in adult *Centriscus scolopax*, but longer and more distinctly denticulated than in *Centriscus gracilis*. They approach much more nearly to the typical form of the former species in the shape of their body, as may be seen from the following measurements:—

	Specimen from North Atlantic.	Specimen from South Pacific.
Total length,	23 mm.	17 mm.
Distance between operculum and root of caudal fin,	10 "	$7\frac{1}{2}$ "
Greatest depth of the body,	5 "	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
Length of dorsal spine,	$3\frac{1}{4}$ "	$2\frac{1}{4}$ "

Lophotes cepedianus, Giorna, young (Pl. II. figs. K, K').

The discovery of the young of so scarce a fish as *Lophotes* must excite some surprise, but there is no other genus to which the little fish could be referred with

¹ Fische d. Südsee, p. 222.

² Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xviii. p. 395, 1876; referred to by Lütken, loc. cit., p. 585.