

The families Stomiidæ and Sternoptychidæ present many points of resemblance, and comprise many fishes which were previously looked upon as genuine deep-sea forms. They vary greatly in shape, some being long and slender, others short and laterally compressed, and the

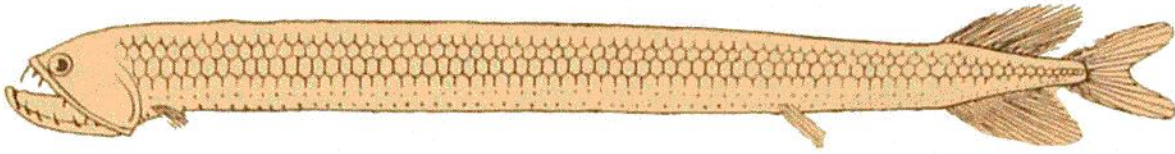


FIG. 453.
Stomias boa, Risso. Nat. size, 16 cm.

mouth is large with a great number of teeth. Both families are characterised by abundant light-organs, the only difference between them lying in the fact that the Sternoptychidæ have only one kind of

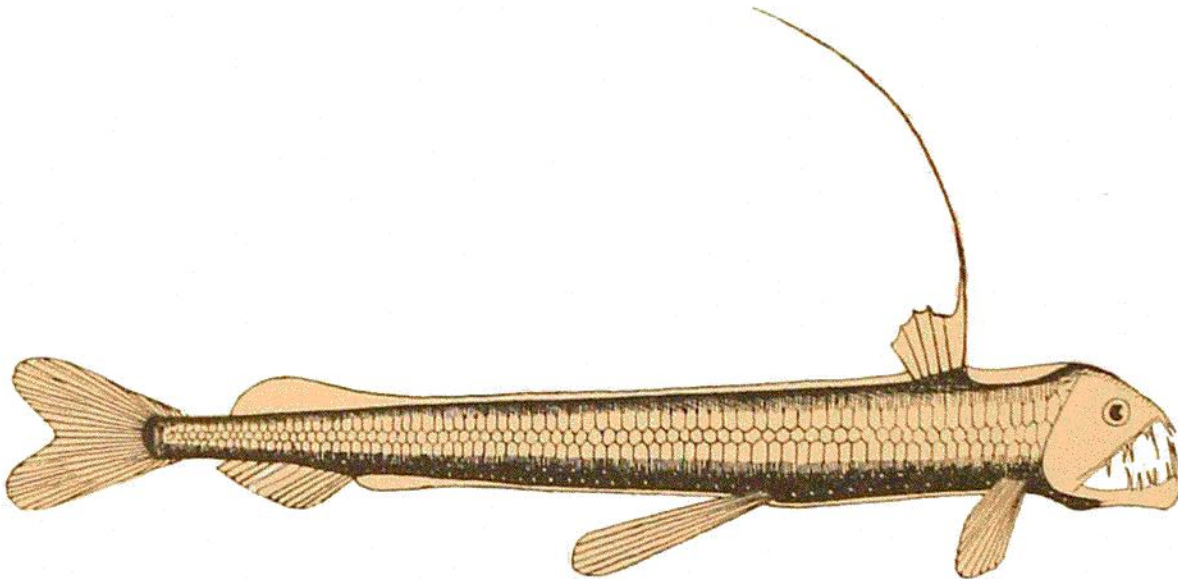


FIG. 454.
Chauliodus sloanei, Bl. and Schn. Nat. size, 6 cm.

light-organ, while the Stomiidæ have below or behind the eye large and powerful light-organs, very often coloured, quite different in structure from the small ones on the body.

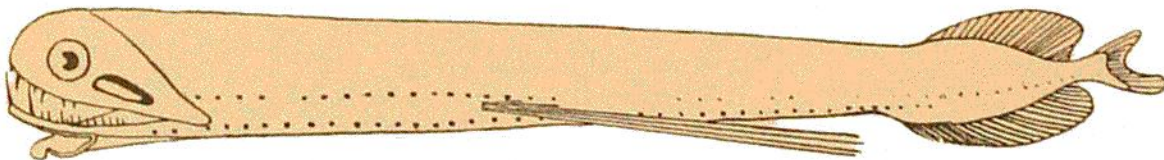


FIG. 455.
Photostomius guernei, Coll. Nat. size, 17 cm.

The Stomiidæ occurring most commonly in the Atlantic are *Stomias boa* (see Fig. 453) and *Chauliodus sloanei* (see Fig. 454), both taken in the tow-nets of the "Michael Sars" at nearly all oceanic stations. They both occur in all oceans, and some of the rarer forms, like *Macrostomias longibarbus*, *Malacosteus indicus*, and *Astronesthes niger*, are also known from other oceans. An interesting species,