

*Scombrops*, Schlegel.*Scombrops chilodipteroïdes*, Blkr.

This fish, which was originally described by Schlegel in the *Fauna Japonica*, seems to be scarce on the coast of Japan, as it is not distinguished by a vernacular name. The

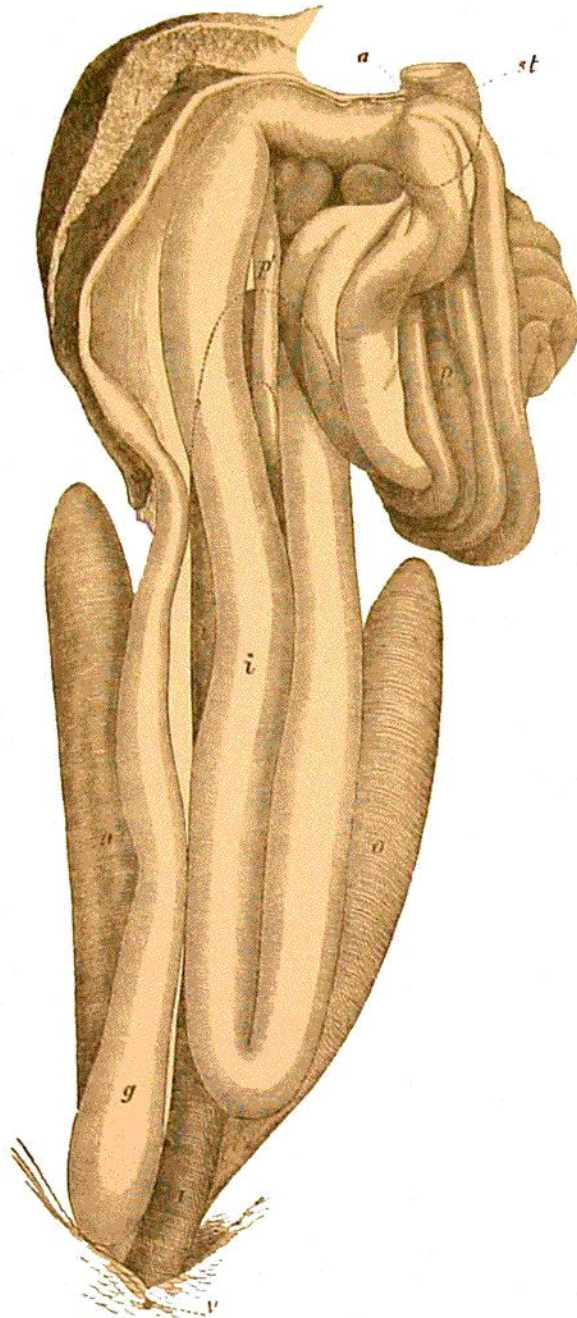


FIG. 1.—*Scombrops chilodipteroïdes*. *st*, stomach; *i*, *i*, intestine; *p*, pyloric appendages; *p'*, pyloric appendage separated from the rest; *l*, liver, part of which has been removed; *g*, gall-bladder; *a*, end of ductus choledochus; *v*, vent; *o*, *o*, ovaries.

Challenger Expedition obtained one specimen only, 16 inches long, off Inosima, at a depth of 345 fathoms. Like other Japanese fish *Scombrops* reappears in the West Indies, Poey having described a closely allied species under the name of *Latebrus oculatus*.<sup>1</sup> The reason why I hesitate in specifically identifying the Cuban with the Japanese fish is the circumstance that Poey figures the strong teeth of the jaws as distinctly barbed, although he singularly enough does not allude to this peculiarity in the description. Differences in the statements of the number of the scales are of much less weight in regard to these fishes, because the transverse series are rather irregularly arranged and do not correspond with the number of scales along the lateral line. Poey also found only ten pyloric appendages in his specimen. He states that the fish is rare and an inhabitant of great depths.

*Scombrops* shows some noteworthy peculiarities in the structure of its abdominal organs. The gall-bladder (*g*) is excessively prolonged, lying behind the lower intestine and extending to the end of the abdominal cavity. The stomach (*st*) is very short and small, but the pyloric appendages (*p*), of which there are eighteen, are very long and wide. Seventeen of them are convoluted and form a large bundle, whilst the eighteenth (*p'*) is straight, accompanying the anterior portion of the intestine. The intestine (*i*) makes only one entire convolution. The air-bladder is large, attached to the walls of the

abdomen, with the ventral part of its outer tunic thickened and giving support to the much developed glandular red bodies.

<sup>1</sup> Mem. Hist. Nat. Cuba, ii., 1868, p. 168, Tab. xiii. figs. 11, 12; Tab. xiv. fig. 2.