

the gill-laminæ. Ventrals composed of several rays, slightly in advance of the pectorals, which are narrow. Bones flexible; mucous cavities of the head of moderate capacity. Pseudobranchiæ none.

Allied to *Strinsia*, but apparently with the dentition and fins modified.

*Melanonus gracilis* (Pl. XIV. fig. B).

*Melanonus gracilis*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, ii. p. 19.

B. 5. D. 6 | 67. A. 54. 3 D. + C. + 2 A. = 50. P. 10. V. 5.

The head bears, as regards form and general configuration, a striking resemblance to that of *Melamphaës*; it is of moderate length, equal to the distance of the root of the ventrals from the vent, rather broad, and with the snout obtuse and arched downwards. Only the operculum and præopercular limb are scaly; the remainder is covered with a soft skin, which is roughened by short, soft, keel-like prominences. The portion covering the front of the snout between the nostrils is of a lighter colour, with a network of low folds, and similar to the same organ in *Melamphaës typhlops*. The muciferous channels are of moderate extent, and open by small but very distinct pores in the usual manner. One pore, rather wider than the rest, opens in the centre of the upper surface of the head. The eye is of moderate size, two-ninths of the length of the head, and rather shorter than the snout. Interorbital space much wider than the eye, convex.

The mouth is wide, slightly oblique, and not reaching backwards to the hind margin of the orbit, the maxillary being but little dilated at its posterior extremity. The jaws are equal in front, or the mandible projects scarcely beyond the upper.

Gill-membranes united below the isthmus for some distance, supported by short branchiostegals.

The trunk is compressed, passing into the tail, which tapers into an exceedingly narrow extremity. Of the scales only a small portion has been preserved; they are thin, deciduous, marked with numerous concentric striæ, and of moderate size. There seem to be two and a half in a transverse series between the first dorsal and the lateral line. But the course of the latter cannot be traced, owing to the condition of the specimen.

The fin-rays are of very delicate structure, connected by a thin membrane, and the posterior are so closely packed and so fragile that to count them is a matter of some difficulty. All are more or less directed backwards, especially the posterior.

The first dorsal begins above the root of the pectoral, and is much lower than the body; its longest rays are longer than those of the second fin, which maintain nearly the same length to the end of the fin. The second fin commences immediately behind the