

Intestine with two and a half convolutions. Air-bladder a simple, thin-walled sac. Kidneys large, extending far forwards. Ovaries enclosed in a membranous sac.

Mr. Murray<sup>1</sup> observes :—"This Ophidiid had a large, rounded, fleshy head ; no trace of an eye could be seen other than a small dark spot a considerable distance underneath the skin. The fins were black, but the body of the fish was white ; with the exception of one or two, all the scales had been rubbed off, and with them apparently a thin black skin, so that probably the fish when first caught by the trawl was of a uniform black colour ; the mouth and gill-chambers were black."

*Typhlonus nasus* (Pl. XXV. fig. A).

*Typhlonus nasus*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 21.

The head of this most remarkable form is somewhat compressed, deep, as thick in the rostral as in the opercular portion ; its length is rather more than one-fourth of the total. Protuberances, formed by projecting portions of the cranium, occupy the upper and lateral surfaces of the head ; and more especially one in front, and another on each side of the snout are very conspicuous.

The cavities between them are large, muciferous ; during life, when these cavities are full, the whole head must be enveloped in mucus.<sup>2</sup> No apertures leading into them are visible anywhere. The snout is thick, projecting far beyond the mouth, which is rather small, horse-shoe-shaped and quite at the lower side of the head. A thin skin, covered with very small scales, envelops the whole head. The nostrils are close together situated on the lateral prominences of the snout.

The depth of the body is not quite equal to the length of the head. The scales appear to have been irregularly arranged, and no lateral line is visible. The dorsal fin commences above the root of the pectoral, and is composed of numerous feeble and rather short rays ; it passes without interruption into the caudal and anal. The distance of the vent from the root of the ventral is only half the length of the head.

Pectoral rounded, composed of twenty-six feeble rays, reaching beyond the vent ; ventral filaments beyond the extremity of the pectoral.

Light brownish, with black fins.

*Habitat*.—North-east of Australia, Station 181 ; depth, 2440 fathoms. One specimen, 10 inches long.

North of Celebes, Station 198 ; depth, 2150 fathoms. One specimen, 10 inches long.

<sup>1</sup> Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. p. 520.

<sup>2</sup> The external configuration of the head during life is evidently very different from the appearance which it presents in specimens preserved in strong spirits. After the specimen had been submerged in diluted alcohol for the purposes of dissection, the mucus still remaining in the cavities swelled into a gelatinous mass, distending the membranes, so that the contours of the head appeared rounded.