

But the most extraordinary change takes place in the position of the vent. In young specimens (of 12 inches and less) the vent is placed between the ventrals (fig. *a*), immediately behind their roots at some distance from the origin of the anal, and the distance between vent and isthmus is only about half the length of the head. In the adult, in which the abdominal organs are fully developed, the external extent of the abdomen is also enlarged, the vent being moved backwards behind the ventrals immediately in front of the anal, and the distance between vent and isthmus has been much increased, being equal to the length of the head.

*Macrurus nasutus* (Pl. XXX. fig. B).

*Coryphænoides nasutus*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1877, vol. xx. p. 440.

Allied to *Macrurus rudis*.

D. 12 | 95. A. 110. B. 20. V. 10.

Snout obtusely conical, with a rather sharp upper edge, and with a more or less projecting knob in the middle. The snout projects beyond the mouth, the cleft of which does not reach to below the middle of the eye. The teeth of the outer series are scarcely stronger than the remainder. Barbel very small. The width of the interorbital space is not quite equal to the vertical diameter of the eye, which, in a specimen 14 inches long, is nearly one-fourth of the length of the head, and equal to that of the snout. The structure of the *scales* is almost identical with that in *Macrurus rudis*. They are equally rough over the whole of their surface, the spinelets being subequal in size, densely packed, and not arranged in series. The majority of these spinelets are strengthened by a strong longitudinal keel (fig. *b*). There are seven or eight scales in a transverse series between the first dorsal and the lateral line. Second dorsal spine somewhat produced, armed along its anterior edge with barbs pointing upwards and rather closely set. The second dorsal fin commences at a considerable distance behind the first, the distance being nearly equal to the length of the head. The outer ventral ray produced into a filament, shorter than the fin.

*Habitat*.—South of Yeddo, Station 235; depth, 565 fathoms. Five specimens, 14½ and 14 inches long.

*Hyalonema*-ground, off Inosima, Japan, Station 232; depth, 345 fathoms. Six specimens, about 12 and 13 inches long.

The number of dorsal and anal rays must always be subject to considerable variation, because the end of the tail is not equally produced in all individuals. In several specimens the tail has been mutilated at an early stage of growth, and in such cases the truncated stump is surrounded by a rayed fin, very much of the same appearance as the caudal fin of the ordinary Teleostean type.