

inserted in the middle of the length of the abdomen, which is slightly longer than the head.

The specimen is still colourless, except on the sides of the head and trunk and along the middle of the tail, which parts are covered with a silvery pigment. Abdomen and lower parts of the head black.

Habitat.—Off Matuku, Fiji Islands, Station 173; depth, 315 fathoms. One specimen, 5½ inches long.

Although the specimen is young, it is so unlike any other of the numerous young *Macruri* collected by the Challenger, that I cannot but consider it to be a very distinct form. It has long passed the larval or *Krohnus*-stage, and developed specific characters by which it may be recognised, viz., the long barbel, large scales, smooth dorsal spine, villiform dentition, large eye, parabolic snout, and narrow interorbital space. It possesses the gill-apparatus characteristic of the true *Macruri*. The scales of the adult may be supposed to be spiny.

Macrurus italicus.

Hymenocephalus italicus, Giglioli (*e* Issel), Pelagos, p. 228, c. fig. (without description).

D. 12. P. 16. V. 10.

Head deeper than broad, with vertical sides and wide muciferous cavities; snout obtuse, short, slightly projecting beyond the mouth, the cleft of which is oblique, anterior and lateral, and extending to behind the middle of the eye. Teeth in both jaws minute, of equal size, villiform, in narrow bands. Barbel small. Interorbital space as wide as the eye, the diameter of which is one-third of the length of the head, and exceeds the snout in length. Scales extremely thin, deciduous, spiny, of comparatively large size.¹ Præopercular margin not serrated. Anterior dorsal spine smooth, filamentous; the distance between the two dorsal fins is but little more than the length of the base of the former.² Pectoral fin about half as long as the head. Vent close to the root of the ventral fins which reach it, and the outer ray of which is produced into a filament. A triangular scaleless space between the ventral fins, nearly extending to the vent; a small round naked space, surrounded by spiny scales, in the middle of the præventral region. Distance between the vent and isthmus three-fourths of the length of the head. Body

¹ No scales whatever are preserved in our specimen on the tail and back, only slight traces of the scale pouches are visible; on the sides of the abdomen, which are silvery, no scales had yet been developed, whilst the lower side of the abdomen, with the exception of the naked spaces described, is covered with spiny scales, the spines being rather long and irregularly placed as in *Macrurus lævis*.

² In the woodcut given by Giglioli about thrice as long, but this figure evidently cannot claim great exactness in details.