

is enveloped in soft skin, which is thickest and mucigerous on the snout; no foramina leading into the muciferous system can be distinguished. The nostrils lie immediately in front of the eye.

The thick end of the snout overlaps the mouth, which is horse-shoe-shaped, its lateral cleft extending to the front margin of the eye. Barbel none.

The branchial cleft extends from the upper end of the gill-cover far forwards, the branchiostegous membranes being free from each other. Gill-laminæ well developed; gill-rakers rather short, soft, lanceolate.

All the fins are long-rayed. The dorsal fin has a rather broad base, the length of which is about one-third of its distance from the end of the snout; it is very high, its longest rays being much longer than the head, and even exceeding the pectoral fin. As regards the anal fin, the rays of its anterior portion are about equal to the depth of the tail, but the posterior increase in length, and exceed much the gradually decreasing depth of the tail. The pectorals have a narrow base, are longer than the head, and extend backwards to the origin of the anal. The ventrals consist of two rays each, of which the longer is bifid at the end, and nearly reaches the vent; the shorter and inner is rudimentary.

The fish is nearly transparent, with a brownish tint; dorsal and pectoral fins and a broad margin of the anal black.

I am indebted to M. Tegima of the Tokio Museum for a specimen of this extremely rare fish, which does not seem to have been observed since it was described in the Fauna Japonica. It is 9 inches long, and in a good state of preservation, except for a certain degree of desiccation, which it has undergone in consequence of the action of the spirit on the mucous layer with which it is covered. Our specimen differs in the shape of the fins from the figure given by Schlegel. Perhaps this is due to age, as the specimen of the Dutch naturalist was considerably larger.

Family PLEURONECTIDÆ.¹

As far as our present knowledge goes, Flat-fishes are, unlike the Gadoids and Ophidioids, but sparsely represented in the deep sea, and have not yet reached to a depth of

¹ For the sake of completeness I mention here a small Flat-fish, 72 mm. long, which was obtained by the U.S. Fish Commission at depths of 86 and 115 fathoms, in lat. 40° 0' N., long. 70° 23' W., and which has been described by Mr. Brown Goode under the name of *Thyris* or *Delothyris pellucidus* (*Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, vol. iii. p. 344, 1880; and p. 110, 1884), and which both he and Mr. Jordan regard as a larval form. As generic diagnosis the following description is given:—"A genus of heterosome fishes, with soft, transparent, elongate body. Head very short (in the single species contained about 5½ times in total length of body). Mouth small, toothless. Eyes upon left side, close together, the lower slightly in advance of the upper. Pectoral fin upon blind side shorter and with fewer rays than upon coloured side. Ventrals crowded together upon median keel of body, their bases prolonged upon this keel. Dorsal fin commences in front of the eye upon the snout. Dorsal and anal rays simple. Caudal fin subsessile, almost confluent with dorsal and anal. Scales very small, thin, easily detached. Dorsal line marked, straight. Body translucent, colourless (except for three longitudinal stripes in the single species). The vertebræ can almost be counted through the flesh when the fish is held up to the light, and the arrangement of the gills is clearly visible through the opercular bones."