

*Nannobrachium*, n. gen.

Head and body rather elongate and compressed, covered with deciduous scales of rather large size. Cleft of the mouth very wide; maxillary well developed, not dilated behind. Teeth minute, in narrow bands, in the jaws, on the vomer, the palatine bones, and the tongue. Eye rather small. Pectoral fins rudimentary; ventral fins well developed, eight-rayed, inserted at some distance behind the pectorals; dorsal fin in the middle of the length of the body with fourteen rays, its origin being between the ventrals and the anal; adipose fin small; anal of moderate length; caudal forked. Gill-opening very wide; pseudobranchiæ small. Series of phosphorescent organs along the lower side of the head, body and tail; a gland-like luminous organ on the upper and lower sides of the caudal peduncle.

*Habitat*.—Indian Ocean.

*Nannobrachium nigrum*, n. sp. (Pl. LII. fig. B).

D. 14. A. 19. L. lat. ca. 34.

The single specimen in the collection has suffered much at the time of capture and has lost a great portion of its integuments.

This fish is closely allied to *Scopelus*, and bears in its physiognomy and general form of body a great resemblance to *Scopelus engraulis*. The depth of the body is contained five and a half times in the total length, without caudal, the length of the head three times and two-thirds. A great portion of the skull is cartilaginous, the superficial bones being extremely thin and modified for the reception of the wide muciferous cavities. The eye is rather small, about one-fifth of the length of the head and equal to that of the snout. Mouth extremely wide, rather oblique, with the lower jaw somewhat projecting, extending backwards to the end of the præoperculum. Intermaxillary as long as maxillary, toothed throughout its whole length, both bones being very narrow and rod-shaped. Hind margin of the præoperculum very oblique.

Gill-laminæ very short; gill-rakers long, needle-shaped, eighteen on the outer branchial arch, the longest as long as the eye.

The origin of the dorsal fin is nearer to the extremity of the snout than to the root of the caudal, and its last ray opposite to the eighth of the anal fin. Adipose fin narrow, opposite to the end of the anal. The origin of the anal is opposite to the eighth ray of the dorsal fin. Caudal emarginate.

The pectoral fin is reduced to three or four small and extremely delicate filaments.

The ventral fin is inserted conspicuously in front of the dorsal and extends backwards to the vent.