

Opostomias, n. gen.

This genus differs from *Echiostoma* by its dentition, the long teeth not being depressible, but received in grooves or hollows of the opposite jaw. Maxillary and palatine teeth absent. A barbel.

Opostomias micripnus (Pl. LIII. fig. A).

Echiostoma micripnus, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 180; Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. p. 412.

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The length of the head is nearly one-ninth of the total (with the caudal). Barbel much longer than the head and fringed at its extremity; the anterior pectoral ray filamentous and distinctly separated from the others. Root of the ventral rather nearer to the extremity of the snout than to the root of the caudal. Black; luminous organ above the maxillary small, round, like a rudimentary eye.

Habitat.—South of Australia, Station 159; depth, 2150 fathoms. One specimen, 15½ inches long.

The height of the body is one-eighth of the total length, the length of the head two-ninths. Head moderately compressed; interorbital space convex, broad, its width being contained twice and two-thirds in the length of the head. Cleft of the mouth wide, but not quite extending to the angle of the præoperculum, the posterior margin of which is vertical. Gill-cover completely covering the gill-cavity, narrow. Eye small, half as long as the snout and one-sixth or one-seventh¹ of the length of the head.

Jaws armed with very strong teeth, few in number and not depressible. About one-half of the length of the upper jaw is formed by the intermaxillary and the other half by the maxillary. The intermaxillary bears four teeth, of which the second is by far the strongest and received in a shallow impression behind the large fang of the mandible. The three other teeth are subequal and of rather small size. Maxillary toothless. Mandible broad and deep, armed anteriorly with two large and pointed fangs, which are distant from each other and are received in a deep hollow of the upper jaw. This large mandibular fang is succeeded by three teeth only, which are remote from each other and somewhat larger than the opposite teeth of the upper jaw. Vomer with a small fang on each side. Palatines toothless; upper pharyngeals with some small fangs.

Pupil of the eye vertical. Nostrils close together, above the eye, on the upper surface

¹ The eyes are not exactly of the same size on each side.