

sented in Fig. 546, taken at Station 53 in 1300 metres. The head has been much transformed, but the body still retains much of the leptocephalous character, while on the ventral side pigment has been developed.

Fig. 547 shows the number of leptocephali of every description taken during our cruise, and we see that the majority were taken south of a line from Newfoundland past the Azores to

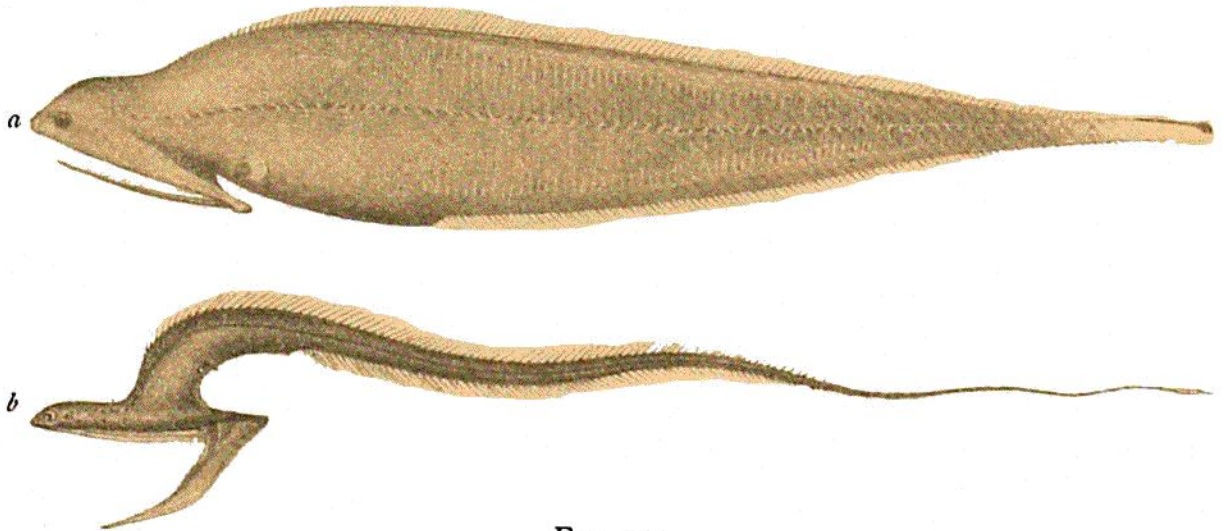


FIG. 545.

a. Larva of *Gastrostomus bairdii* (?). Nat. size, 4 cm. Station 64.
b. *Gastrostomus bairdii*, Gill and Ryd. Nat. size, 7.5 cm.

North Africa. The ones taken north of this line belong, according to Lea, to the following species:—

Leptocephalus brevirostris, the larva of the common eel.

Leptocephalus Congri vulgaris, the larva of the conger eel.

Leptocephalus Synaphobranchi pinnatus, the larva of *Synaphobranchus pinnatus*.

Leptocephalus amphioxus, larva of an unknown species.



FIG. 546.

Transition-stage from leptocephalus to "young fish." Station 53, 1300 metres.

Only one specimen of the last mentioned was taken at Station 81 off Newfoundland, so that we may say that the three first mentioned are the only ones observed north of the line indicated. The majority of individuals as well as of species were thus taken south of the Azores.

The interest attached to this peculiar distribution of the leptocephali is greatly increased when we examine their dis-