

the upper jaw closing in front of the lower; a similar pair of still longer teeth in the lower jaw received in grooves of the palate. On the sides of each jaw two long teeth terminating in bulbous tips; a row of minute teeth on the posterior half of the maxillaries. Palate toothless.

Caulolepis longidens.

Caulolepis longidens, Gill, *loc. cit.*

D. $\frac{2}{17}$. A. $\frac{2}{3}$. Eyes small, black.

Habitat.—A single specimen of this interesting form (size not stated) was obtained by the U.S. steamer "Albatross," in the Atlantic; lat. 39° 27' N., long. 69° 56' W.; depth, 1346 fathoms.

Melamphaës.

Metopias, Lowe, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1843, p. 90.

Melamphaës, Günth., Cat. Fish., v. p. 433.

Head large and thick, with nearly all the superficial bones modified into wide muciferous channels. Cleft of the mouth of moderate width, obliquely descending backwards, with the jaws nearly equal in front. A narrow band of villiform teeth in both the jaws; palate toothless. Eight branchiostegals; pseudobranchiæ present; no barbels; opercles not armed. Scales large, cycloid, rather irregularly arranged. One dorsal; caudal forked; anal spines very feeble; ventrals with seven rays.

The formation of the head, the black colour of the body, together with the circumstances attending the capture of the three specimens first known, clearly indicate that the fishes of this genus are inhabitants of the depths of the ocean. Lowe's two specimens were picked up at the surface, near Madeira, evidently in an exhausted condition; whilst the specimen described by Lütken was found in the stomach of a dolphin. The discoveries by the Challenger, and by the United States S.S. "Albatross," have proved the surmise¹ of the bathybial nature of these fishes to be correct.

The following is a list of all the species known:—

Melamphaës microps.

Scopelus microps, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 186.

B. 8. D. $\frac{6}{15}$. A. $\frac{1}{9}$. P. 14. V. $\frac{1}{7}$. L. lat. 35.

The height of the body is one-fourth of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head one-third; eye one-seventh of the length of the head, and rather more

¹ Günther, *loc. cit.*