

termination of the tail is comparatively broad, the rays starting from the end may be regarded as the caudal portion. All the fin rays are thin and closely set, enveloped in a broad basal membrane, so that it is difficult to ascertain their number without dissection. Origin of the dorsal fin midway between occiput and vent. Anal fin commencing immediately behind the vent. Pectoral fin, with broad fleshy base, as long as the post-orbital portion of the head. The ventrals do not extend so far backwards as the pectorals, and the distance between their root and the vent is much more than the length of the head.

Uniform brown with black fins.

Habitat.—Off Middle Island, Messier Strait, Station 306A; depth, 345 fathoms. One specimen, 8 inches long.

Pteridium (Scopoli).

Head and body compressed, covered with very small scales, only the upper part of the head and the snout being naked. The body is moderately elongate, the tail but little attenuated. Snout obtuse, not swollen, with the jaws even in front, and with the mouth obliquely ascending. Bones of the head firm, the muciferous canals narrow. Eye small. Operculum with a short spine behind; præoperculum with two short projections near the angle. Barbels none. Bands of villiform teeth in the jaws and an open V-shaped band on the vomer; some slightly enlarged teeth along the inner series of the mandible and on the vomer; palatine teeth none. Vertical fins confluent; ventrals close together, reduced to a pair of fine simple filaments, and inserted somewhat behind the isthmus, below the middle of the operculum. Lateral line interrupted. Gills four; pseudobranchiæ none. Branchiostegals eight. Pyloric appendages two.

Only one species is known.

Pteridium atrum (Risso).

Very scarce in the Mediterranean, and admitted here for comparison with the allied bathybial genera. Probably it also is an inhabitant of considerable depths, but nothing is known on this point. Having now obtained a specimen $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, but in a somewhat desiccated condition, I am enabled to correct my former diagnosis,¹ which was drawn up from Filippi and Verany's description. The lateral line is rather indistinct, interrupted, and the fact that the ends of the two portions overlap each other, gave rise to the statement that the line was double along a portion of the tail.

¹ Fish., vol. iv. p. 375.