

*Mixonus*, n. gen.

I have long hesitated to describe the following fish under a distinct generic name. The specimen is small, unique, and not in the best state of preservation, so that several of the characters assigned here to the genus may have to be amended when other specimens are discovered. Its pertinence to either *Pteroidonus* or *Dicrolene* seems to be doubtful on account of the difference in the shape of the head.

The lower pectoral rays are free, not united by membrane with, but inserted on the same base as the upper part of the fin; they are but slightly stronger than the other rays and prolonged. Body elongate, compressed, covered with small, very thin and deciduous scales. Head slightly compressed, broad and flat above, depressed in front, naked (with the exception of the parts between the mandibles, and, perhaps, of the cheeks). Bones thin, with the muciferous system moderately developed; only one small spine above on the operculum; præoperculum without spine. Eye small. Vertical fins united, but the narrow caudal projecting beyond the short dorsal and anal rays. Ventrals each reduced to a filament, which consists of two rays firmly bound together in their whole length; they are inserted behind the humeral symphysis and close together. Snout broad, rounded, scarcely overlapping the lower jaw. Mouth very wide; villiform teeth in the jaws, on the vomer and palatine bones. Gill-laminæ short; gill-rakers long, not very closely set. Pseudobranchiæ none.

*Mixonus laticeps* (Pl. XXV. fig. B).

*Bathynectes laticeps*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. ii., 1878, p. 20.

The greatest depth of the body is below the origin of the dorsal fin, and one-third of the length of the trunk (including head). The distance of the vent from the snout is two-thirds of its distance from the extremity of the spinal column. The length of the head equals the remainder of the trunk. The crown of the head is remarkably convex, covered with an extremely thin and transparent skin, which, perhaps, in older examples is scaly. The interorbital space less convex, and equal in width to the length of the snout including the eye. Eye small, above the middle of the length of the maxillary, one-half of the length of the snout, and one-eighth of that of the head. Posterior nostrils wide, open, in front of the eye.

The distance of the vent from the ventrals exceeds the length of the head. Origin of the dorsal fin above the root of the pectorals, its rays of moderate length, but longer than those of the anal. Pectoral with a rather narrow base, as long as the head without snout; its rays are feeble, seventeen in number, of which the three or four lower ones are a little stouter, detached, and prolonged. The ventral filaments do not reach as far backwards as the pectoral.