

Subgenus *Nematonurus*.*Macrurus armatus* (Pl. XL. fig. A).*Macrurus armatus*, Hector, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1875, vol. xv. p. 81.*Coryphænooides variabilis*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 27.D. 11. P. 18-20. V. 9-10.¹

Snout obtusely conical, projecting beyond the mouth, the cleft of which extends behind the middle of the eye. Teeth of both jaws in a single series. Barbel nearly as long as the eye. The interorbital space is flat, its width being much more than the diameter of the eye, which is comparatively small, and in specimens 11 to 20 inches long shorter than the snout, and contained five and a half times in the length of the head.

The scales are provided with five ridges, each ridge composed of several spines, and the central ridge being the strongest. There are eight scales in a transverse series between the first dorsal fin and the lateral line. Lower limb of the præoperculum scaleless. Second dorsal spine armed with barbs in front, which are rather distantly set. The second dorsal fin commences at a distance from the first, which is less than the length of the head. The distance between the vent and isthmus is equal to, or more than, the length of the head. The outer ventral ray produced into a long filament.

Habitat.—Midway between the Cape of Good Hope and Kerguelen Island, Station 147; depth, 1600 fathoms. Three specimens, 5, 10½, and 22 inches long.

South Pacific, Station 146; depth, 1375 fathoms. Six specimens, 10 inches long.

South Pacific, Station 157; depth, 1950 fathoms. One specimen, 10 inches long.

South Pacific, Station 158; depth, 1800 fathoms. Eleven specimens, 5 to 18 inches long.

Mid-Pacific, Station 246; depth, 2050 fathoms. Three specimens, 7 and 17 inches long.

Mid-Pacific, Station 271; depth, 2425 fathoms. One specimen, 15 inches long.

Two hundred miles east of Cape Farewell; depth, 400 fathoms. One specimen, 8¾ inches long. Type of *Macrurus armatus*.

This species has a wide range in the southern hemisphere, and is subject to some variation, the variation occurring in individuals from the same locality, and affecting the form of the head, length of dorsal spine, &c. The most striking deviation from the typical form is a kind of albino, not quite white, but of a much lighter colour than the ordinary specimens. In these albinos the scales (fig. *a'*) are much thinner, the ridges sometimes scarcely visible, and if developed, they are merely keels without spines. The spines are in some specimens more projecting than in others; the specimen from Station 271 having them most prominent.

¹ Not seven as stated by Hector.