

Known from two specimens in the Berlin Museum; the larger, about 5 inches long, was obtained north of Australia in long.  $117^{\circ}$  E., the smaller, 2 inches long, north of New Guinea in lat.  $1^{\circ} 4'$ , long.  $136^{\circ}$  E., both at the surface.

*Idiacanthus ferox* (Pl. LII. fig. D).

*Bathyopsis ferox*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 181.

D. 60. A. 45. V. 6. Vert. ca. 69.

Vent situated at the sixth eighth of the total length. Commencement of the dorsal fin opposite to the root of the ventrals. Black.

*Habitat*.—Middle of North Atlantic, Station 63; depth, 2750 fathoms. One specimen, 8 inches long.

The body of this extraordinary form is extremely elongate, band-shaped, with the muscular system so little developed, that in its present preserved state the vertebral column appears to be merely covered by the skin, with the outlines of the vertebræ clearly visible. It is one of those deep-sea fishes in which the stomach and the walls of the abdomen are capable of extreme distention, to receive the prey which the fish is able to seize, and to hold with its large and formidably armed jaws. The vent lies at the commencement of the sixth eighth of the total length, the tail being therefore rather short.

The head is high, compressed, the large jaws forming nearly one-half of its lateral area; its length is contained thrice and two-thirds in its distance from the ventral fins, or is one-fourteenth of the total length. Eye rather small, not quite twice as distant from the posterior end of the head as from the anterior. Cleft of the mouth extremely wide, extending backwards to the end of the head, slightly oblique, with the lower jaw prominent. The dentition is more complete on the right side than on the left, and consists in the upper jaw of seventeen long and pointed teeth, of which the fourth and the eighth are the longest. The teeth of the lower jaw are still longer, twenty on each side, the fourth and eleventh being very long, whilst the hindmost are very short.

These teeth when erect prevent the jaws from shutting, but all of them can be depressed to the level of the jaws. Vomer with one or two small teeth on each side, placed at considerable distance from each other; palatine with a series of three or four small teeth, slightly increasing in length backwards; tongue with three pairs of teeth. Gill-opening very wide, with a very narrow and membranaceous gill-cover. Barbel long, about twice as long as the head, with the terminal portion slightly dilated by a narrow fold running along each side, but the end of the appendage tapers again into a delicate filament (fig. *d*).

The dorsal fin commences opposite to the ventrals, and is composed of widely set,