

the interorbital space is only two-thirds of that of the eye. Snout very short with steep anterior profile and transverse anterior mouth, the cleft of the mouth being nearly on the same level as the lower margin of the eye. All the bones of the head are very thin, semicartilaginous; the head seems to have been scaleless. The gill-cavity is closed behind, the gill-opening beginning opposite to the root of the pectoral fin, and the gill-membrane forming a broad bridge across the isthmus. This membranous bridge is not attached to the isthmus, and contains a layer of transverse muscular fascicles by which the gill-covers can be simultaneously firmly closed. The branchiostegals are extremely thin and short and hidden in the membrane. The dorsal fin commences nearly midway between snout and caudal; it is short and composed of feeble rays. Vent placed far backwards, the length of the tail not being much more than that of the head. Anal fin likewise composed of feeble rays, terminating at a short distance from the caudal. (The caudal fin is too much injured to ascertain its shape.) Pectoral fin narrow, close to the lower profile. Ventrals opposite to the hind part of the dorsal fin.

All the scales being lost, their size and number can be given only approximately from the remaining scale pouches; they must have been very thin, and the lateral line seems to have run along the middle of the side of the body.

Also of the colour nothing can be stated, except that the scale pouches have a distinct black margin.

Habitat.—One specimen, in very bad condition and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, was obtained in the South Atlantic, at Station 318 (depth, 2040 fathoms).

Mr. Murray¹ has made a very important observation on the circumstances attending the capture of this fish, which has a direct bearing on the question as to the bathybial range of many of the fishes captured by the deep-sea trawl. At this station the trawl was over the side for seven hours, but it never seemed to touch the bottom. Yet it contained, beside the specimen of *Bathylagus*, several large Medusæ, several bright scarlet Shrimps, and other animals. "It is impossible to say how near the trawl may have been to the bottom, but Mr. Murray considers it quite certain that most, if not all, of the animals above mentioned were captured in the intermediate water, between a depth of 100 fathoms from the surface, and a short distance from the bottom."

Bathylagus antarcticus.

Bathylagus antarcticus, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 248.

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This species is closely allied to the preceding, but readily distinguished by the greater number of anal rays. The height of the body is rather less than the length of the head,

¹ Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. p. 903.