

the root of the pectoral, while the anal arises not much nearer the snout than the end of the tail. The pectorals are considerably shorter than the snout."

One specimen, the size of which is not stated, was obtained by the U.S. steamer "Albatross" in the Atlantic; lat. 38° 30' N., long. 69° 0' W.

*Synaphobranchus brevidorsalis*, n. sp. (Pl. LXIII. fig. C).

Mouth and dentition as in *Synaphobranchus pinnatus*. Gill-openings in a single slit, in advance of the pectoral fins. Eye of moderate size, one-half the length of the pointed snout. The length of the body is less than one-half of that of the tail; root of the pectoral fin much nearer to the end of the snout than to the vent. The dorsal fin commences so far behind the vent, that the distance between its origin from the vent equals the length of the head. Pectoral of moderate length, two-fifths of the length of the head. Scales rudimentary, rounded, imbedded in the skin, extending over the cheeks. Anal higher than dorsal. Dark brown.

*Habitat*.—North of New Guinea, Station 218; depth, 1070 fathoms. One specimen, 23 inches long.

*Hyalonema* ground, off Japan, Station 232; depth, 345 fathoms. One specimen, 17½ inches long.

Group S a c c o p h a r y n g i n a, Gthr.

*Saccopharynx*.

*Saccopharynx*, Mitchill, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, vol. i., 1824, p. 82.

„ Günth., Fish., vol. viii. p. 22.

*Ophiognathus*, Harwood, Phil. Trans., 1827, p. 277.

*Eurypharynx*, Vaillant, Comptes rendus, 1882, vol. xcv. p. 1226.

*Gastrostomus*, Gill and Ryder, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. vi., 1884, p. 271.

Deep-sea eels, characterised as such by a combination of the Murænoid characters with a specifically bathybial modification of the osseous and muscular systems, of which the former is wanting in inorganic matter, whilst the latter is but very feebly developed, except in the parts which have to perform the function of deglutition. To enable them to seize upon prey more powerful than themselves, certain organs have undergone a degree of specialisation, as is observed in bathybial members of other families with a similar mode of life; the jaws are exceedingly elongate, and the whole gape, the pharynx and stomach capable of extraordinary distension. The head is of enormous size, with short cranial portion; the trunk of moderate extent, with the vent at its end; the tail