

*Nemichthys infans* (Pl. LXIII. fig. B).

*Nemichthys infans*, Günth., Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1878, vol. ii. p. 251.

Body much less elongate and eye much smaller than in *Nemichthys scolopacea*. Vent twice or thrice as distant from the root of the pectorals as is the latter from the eye.

*Habitat*.—Mid-Atlantic, Station 101; depth, 2500 fathoms. One specimen, 11 inches long.

Off Pernambuco, Station 121; depth, 500 fathoms. One specimen, 7½ inches long.

Besides these two specimens the British Museum has received a third from the Mona Channel in the West Indies, which was found attached to an old telegraph cable that had been laid at the depth of 814 fathoms; it is 14 inches long, but had a great part of its body mutilated during life. This specimen, which is better preserved than the two others, will be referred to as specimen C in the following description.

The body, although compressed, is rather fleshy, in its anterior portion lower and narrower than the head, but becoming broader and wider behind, the terminal portion tapering again, but retaining a thin muscular covering to the very end (fig. B'''). In specimen C (which is figured) the body was mutilated during life at a short distance behind the point where it attained its greatest depth, and the mutilated part is surrounded by a rather broad fin, in which a number of branched fin-rays have been developed.

The hind part of the head is subquadrangular, nearly as deep as broad. Eye without circular fold, of moderate size, its diameter being about one-third of its distance from the pectoral fin, and about twice the width of the interorbital space. The snout is produced into the same long slender bill as in *Nemichthys scolopacea*. The extremities of the upper and lower jaws terminate in two small swollen knobs (fig. B'') in the two smaller specimens, which are not observable in specimen C. The asperities with which the beak is armed in its entire length, are in the form of minute imbricate scale-like denticles, the points of which are directed backwards (fig. B'). The cleft of the mouth extends a little behind the eye.

The gill-openings are nearly as wide as the orbit, obliquely directed towards the median line of the belly and rather close together. In specimen C the vent is nearly three times as distant from the pectoral fin as this latter is from the eye, but the distance is comparatively less in the two smaller specimens.

The dorsal fin commences immediately behind the pectoral, and is throughout composed of extremely delicate rays; of these only the anterior are distinctly connected by membrane, all the others are free and probably non-erectile. The anal fin commences immediately behind the vent, and is more developed than the dorsal, its rays being stronger and longer; only its anterior rays are delicate and rudimentary