

Sea Fishes (Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. lvii. p. 35). I have there stated the reasons which lead me to believe that it was captured near the surface, and not at the depth of 2675 fathoms to which the dredge descended on that occasion.

Lepidopus tenuis, Gthr.

Lepidopus tenuis, Günth., Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. lvii. p. 37, pl. vii. fig. B.

On the passage from the Sandwich Islands to Tahiti, at Station 271, in lat. $0^{\circ} 33' S.$, long. $151^{\circ} 34' W.$, a young Trichiurid, 95 mm. long, was obtained. The trawl had been at a depth of 2425 fathoms, but it is probable that this small and delicate fish was swimming near to the surface when it got entangled by the trawl. Although there cannot be any doubt as to this specimen being a young *Lepidopus*, it is too much injured to enable us to say whether it should be referred to *Lepidopus tenuis* or *Lepidopus elongatus*, if, indeed, these fishes are specifically distinct. Neither is the place of its capture a guide for its specific determination, *Lepidopus tenuis* having been found in the Japanese Sea, and *Lepidopus elongatus* off New Zealand and in the North-Western Atlantic.

Thyrsites prometheus, C. V. (Pl. I. figs. C, D).

Of the two small fishes here described and figured, the smaller, which is 5 mm. long, was obtained on June 17, 1875, south of Yeddo, and the larger, of double the size, five weeks later, namely on July 23, 1875, north of the Sandwich Islands.

The specimens are not in a good condition, having been placed at the time of their capture on a microscopic glass-slide; the sides of the head have been much crushed, so as to render the outlines of its constituent parts indistinct, more especially the opercular and scapular portions, which, therefore, could not be delineated in the figures.

The specimens are evidently not far removed from the embryonic condition; and Lütken's excellent account¹ of the developmental stages of *Nealotus* and *Gempylus* cannot leave us long in doubt as to the family of fishes to which our specimens should be referred, especially not, if, as I am still inclined to think, the caudalless and caudate Trichiuridæ be retained in the same family. The embryonic stage of the individuals is apparent from the pointed diphyccercal termination of the vertebral column which is surrounded by a circular membrane out of which the caudal fin is developed; in both specimens the caudal rays are visible as extremely fine striæ. In the larger specimen (fig. C) a series of seven or eight hæmal apophyses has been developed in this portion of

¹ K. dansk. Vidensk. Selsk. Skriv., xii., 1880, p. 448 et seq.