

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF AUSTRALIAN
LOPHOBRANCHIATE FISHES.

By J. DOUGLAS OGILBY.

SYNGNATHUS ALTIROSTRIS, *sp. nov.*

D. 28. A. 2. P. 16. C. 10? Osseous rings 17/40.

LENGTH of head about one-seventh of the total length, and one-third of the distance between the tip of the snout and the vent, which distance is two and two-fifths in the total length. Snout of moderate length, strongly compressed, much deeper than broad, curved upwards at the tip, and from five-ninths to one-half of the length of the head: postorbital space from two-thirds to three-fifths of the length of the snout. Body much deeper than broad, with the abdominal profile not dilated. A low, but well defined, ridge along the middle of the upper surface of the snout, sometimes ceasing on the middle of the interorbital space, sometimes bifurcated, and joining the supraciliary ridges, which are moderately developed, and are continued backwards on to the nape: nuchal ridge present: a low straight ridge across the middle of the opercle, not reaching the posterior margin: all the body ridges well defined: lateral ridges ceasing on the middle of the ventral ring: lower caudal ridge continuous with the ventral ridge: abdominal ridge prominent and acute. No lateral rostral groove. Ovisac extending over eighteen rings, one-half of the length of the tail without the short caudal fin. Dorsal fin not elevated above the level of the back, standing upon the seven anterior caudal rings. *Colors*—Uniform brown, with a dark lateral stripe from the tip of the snout through the eye to the lower half of the opercle, where it is broken up into blotches: dorsal fin speckled with brown.

Two specimens, a male and a female, measuring respectively five and three-quarters and five and one-third inches, are in the collection of the Australian Museum, the former having been received in exchange from the Queensland Museum, and obtained in Moreton Bay, while the latter was sent from the Clarence River, N.S.W., by Mr. T. Temperley.

In many respects this species resembles *S. spicifer*, Rüpp., but the slighter prominence of the opercular ridge, the interruption of the lateral line, and the increased number of rings on which the dorsal fin stands, separate it from that species.