

SKELETON OF *LUVARUS IMPERIALIS*, RAFINESQUE.

(A FISH NEW TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC FAUNA).

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(Plates xlv., xlvi., and Fig. 22).

LUVARUS IMPERIALIS, Rafinesque.

Luvarus, known from the Mediterranean, the Atlantic (from Madeira northwards to the coast of Cornwall), and also off the Californian coast,¹ is now to be added to the Australian fauna.

On September 5th last, the Curator received information from Mr. J. A. Brodie, Chief Inspector of Fisheries for New South Wales, that a strange fish had been stranded at Bermagui. The communication was accompanied by a rough sketch, and the following particulars noted by Mr. Elias Laycock, one of the Fishery Inspectors:—"Length about six feet two inches, girth four feet eight inches, spread of tail two feet three inches, weight between two and three hundredweight, colour salmon and silver, flesh white."

Rough as was the sketch, it was so characteristic that we had no difficulty in recognising it as representing *Luvarus*. To have recorded the existence of this Atlantic form from the South Pacific on the evidence of a rough sketch would, under any circumstance, have been so unsatisfactory, that every effort was made to secure at least some portion of the original. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Brodie in this connection, for later in the month we received the skeleton, broken and incomplete, yet in sufficiently good condition to enable our articulator to prepare it for the Museum, and for me to add a little to our knowledge of this interesting form.

After this paper was written, we (on January 7th, 1902) received from Mr. Brodie further particulars: the information, contained in a letter from Inspector W. H. Newton, is as follows:—

"In the beginning of last August, Mr. Elias Laycock and his son, of Port Hacking, found a very large fish stranded on a beach at Bermagui, five hundred yards up the river, the fish being alive and in good condition, with the exception of one side fin, which had been broken. The colour of the fish, when alive, resembled that of the Nannygai (*Beryx affinis*, Günth.), and the flesh inside

¹ See page 297.