

SOME AUSTRALIAN BLENNIOID FISHES.

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(Plates iii.-iv.)

Owing to the kindness of Professor W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc., we have been enabled to examine the typical examples of the various Blennies described by Sir William John Macleay, which are preserved in the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney. Some of these can be identified with earlier described species, while we have redescribed and figured the others. We are also indebted to the Acting-Director of the Queensland Museum for the loan of the types of three species described by Mr. Charles W. de Vis, and to Mr. J. Douglas Ogilby for valuable notes upon them.

The Australian Museum collection is rich in good series of various species of *Salarias* from many localities, which have enabled us to revise those recorded from Australian waters. A large collection was made at Murray Island, Torres Strait, by Messrs. C. Hedley and A. R. McCulloch in October, 1907. Others were secured by Messrs. C. Hedley and E. A. Briggs near Cape Bedford, Queensland, in August, 1916, and at Cairns Reef and Masthead Island, Queensland, by A. R. McCulloch at various times. A particularly valuable series was obtained by Dr. A. D. C. Cummins and Staff Paymaster P. B. Stevens, R.N., in the New Hebrides, while we are fortunate in having Indian specimens for examination which were part of the collection made by Dr. Francis Day. Finally, the Australian Museum collection includes several co-types of species described from Australia which prove to belong to allied genera.

SALARIAS, Cuvier.

Salarias, Cuvier, Règne Anim., ii., 1817, p. 251 (*S. quadripennis*, Rüppell).

The presence of canine teeth has been used to separate *Alticus*, Lacepède, from *Salarias*, but we find intermediate species in which they are occasionally present or absent. Further, some species, such as *S. fasciatus*, which are described as lacking canines, are found to have a small one on each side of the mandible.

Key to the Australian species :—

- a. Dorsal fin not or scarcely notched between the spines and rays.
 - b. No occipital crest.
 - c. Nuchal tentacles large, fringed; body and fins variegated.....*fasciatus*.
 - cc. No nuchal tentacles; body and fins nearly black.....*fuscus*.
 - bb. An occipital crest.....*spaldingi*.
- aa. Dorsal fin incised between the spines and rays.
 - d. Mandibular canines large; about 17 dorsal and 19 anal rays.....*irroratus*.
 - dd. Mandibular canines small or absent; 19-23 dorsal and 19-24 anal rays.
 - e. Ocular tentacle simple; 19-20 dorsal rays.....*rivulatus*.
(*S. mulleri*, Klunzinger, apparently enters this section).
 - ee. Ocular tentacles branched.
(*S. kingii*, Cuv. and Val., apparently enters this section).