

STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN FISHES.

No. 8.*

By

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(Plate i.)

Family SYNGNATHIDAE.

HIPPOCAMPUS *Rafinesque*.

Hippocampus Rafinesque, Caratteri Alc. Gen. Spec. Sicilia, Apr. 1810, p. 18 (type *heptagonus* Rafinesque)—*vide* Jordan, Gen. Fish., i, 1917, p. 79.

Hippocampus Perry, Arcana, May 1810, pl. xviii (*foliatus*)—*vide* Mathews & Iredale, Vict. Nat., xxix, 1, 1912, p. 15.

Authorship and Genotype.—In their paper on Perry's "Arcana" quoted above, Mathews & Iredale gave "a resume of its contents," and drew attention to a number of generic and specific names which had been generally overlooked by later writers. They drew attention to the genus *Hippocampus* which they erroneously believed to have been first published by Perry, with *H. foliatus* as its type. According to Jordan (*supra*), however, the name was used by Rafinesque in his "Caratteri" which was published on 1st April, and therefore preceded Perry's work by one month. Credit of the name *Hippocampus* accordingly remains with Rafinesque, and his species *heptagonus* is its genotype.

Mr. T. Iredale has been good enough to secure for me, through his friend Mr. F. C. Griffin of the British Museum, a typed copy of Perry's notes upon *Hippocampus* in the letterpress relating to plate xviii. These are more curious than useful, and lead one to conclude that this author of last century classified animals by way of external appearances rather than the slower and more tedious study of comparative anatomy. He suggested that *Hippocampus* could scarcely be regarded as a true fish, but might "with more exactitude" be "not improperly" described "as a marine insect." Its head and neck were likened to those parts of a horse, and its tail was compared with the nether end of a mermaid, resemblances which perhaps induced consideration by this erudite naturalist of possible affinities with the mammalia.

Family PEGASIDAE.

PARAPEGASUS NATANS *Linnaeus*.

Parapegasmus natans (Linnaeus) McCulloch, Biol. Res. "Endeavour," iii. 3, 1915, p. 110, fig. 2.

*For No. 7, see "Records," xiii, No. 4, 1921, p. 123.