

Family COTTIDÆ.

Cottunculus, Collett.

The first species discovered of this genus, viz., *Cottunculus microps*, seemed to differ so much from *Cottus*, especially by its enormously developed head, that a generic separation appeared to be well justified. To the very aberrant shape of the head there were added some other distinctive characters, viz., the connection of the two dorsal fins by a broad membrane, and the slight development of the spines of the gill-covers, which do not penetrate the thick skin.

The combination of these characters is not maintained in the second species, *Cottus thomsonii*, which has united dorsals and small spines, but the typical Cottoid shape of the head and body. In fact it connects *Cottunculus* with *Cottus*, so that the former can only be retained as a group of the latter genus, characterised by the union of the dorsal fins and division of the vomerine teeth into two groups.

Cottunculus microps (Pl. IX. fig. A).

- Cottunculus microps*, Collett, Norges Fisk., p. 20; Forh. Vid. Selsk. Christian., 1880, p. 11; Norsk. Nordh. Exped. Fisk., p. 18, pl. i. figs. 5-6; Nyt Mag. f. Naturvid., vol. xviii., 1884, p. 53.
- „ „ Strom, Norsk. Vid. Selsk. Skrift., 1880, p. 75.
- „ „ Goode, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. iii., 1881, p. 479; Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. x., 1883, p. 212.
- „ „ Lilljeb., Sverig. och Norg. Fisk., p. 113.

This fish has been fully described by Collett, who examined specimens from the open sea, south and west of Spitzbergen, dredged at depths varying between 200 and 460 fathoms. The species occurs also on the coast of Norway at depths of from 80 to 200 fathoms. Specimens of various ages, the largest $9\frac{2}{3}$ inches long, were obtained during the exploration of the Farøe Channel by the "Knight Errant," at Stations 4, 8 and 9, at depths varying between 307 and 608 fathoms. The species seems to be also common in the western parts of the North Atlantic, off the coast of New England, where it was found in depths of from 238 to 372 fathoms. Our specimens show very little variation among themselves. The two occipital prominences are sometimes compressed and truncated, in other specimens more or less distinctly bicuspid. In an adult male the black bands are more clearly defined, and of a deeper colour, than in the female figured, or in the young. Also the caudal, anal and pectoral fins are black, with white margins.