

first. A short break separates the second dorsal from the terminal fin which fringes a portion of the tail, and is equal to about half the length of the head; its upper and lower rays are short, much shorter than the few caudal rays proper. The anal fin commences immediately behind the vent, and is lower than the dorsal opposite. The break in its continuity is opposite to that of the dorsal.

Both the pectoral and ventral fins have a narrow base, and are slender; the length of the former equals that of the head, without snout, and is somewhat more than that of the ventrals, which have the second ray prolonged, but do not reach the vent.

The specimen is entirely black, with the exception of the patch of skin in front of the snout, which is of a brownish-grey colour. Fins transparent. Inside of the mouth black, but not the branchial cavity.

Only one example was obtained in the Antarctic Ocean at Station 156, in 1975 fathoms; it is 6 inches long.

The figures on Pl. XIV. represent this specimen of the natural size, also a side view of the head, and front view of the snout; finally, an enlarged view of a scale.

As mentioned above, *Strinsia tinca*, from the Mediterranean, must be closely allied to *Melanonus*, and probably should be included in the deep-sea series.

Merluccius, Cuv.

Merluccius vulgaris (Flem.).

The Hake has been recorded from depths of 115 to 487 fathoms on the edge of the Gulf Stream off the southern New England coast.¹ The specimens caught were numerous, both old and young. Mr. Goode adds: "The adults appeared to be in the middle of the spawning season (September, 1880), the eggs being separated in the ovaries, and flowing easily in specimens taken at the depth of 250 and 487 fathoms. This phenomenon is of the greatest interest and importance, since it may serve to illustrate how other species common near the shores, such as the Menhaden and Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) retreat to deep water to spawn."

Hypsicometes.

Hypsicometes, Goode, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. iii., 1881, p. 347.

In introducing this fish into the literature, the author states that "a small specimen, much contracted and distorted from immersion in strong alcohol, is the only material upon which to base his description. Although not quite satisfied that the relations of this fish

¹ Goode, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. iii., 1881, pp. 337, 476; Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. x., 1883, p. 207.