

Nostrils, two minute openings in front of the eyes; gill-openings very small, close together at the lower surface of the body, immediately in front of the base of the pectoral but at some distance from the angle of the lower jaw (fig. *d''*).

Vent midway between the angle of the lower jaw and the extremity of the tail; the vertical fin is well developed, but does not surround the extremity of the tail, showing a distinct break between the neural and hæmal portions. The dorsal fin commences opposite to the vent and is composed of numerous closely set delicate but very distinct rays. The rays are longest on the narrow portion of the tail, but rapidly decrease in length backwards. The anal is entirely similar to the dorsal as regards structure and extent. Pectoral well developed, composed of about twelve rays, its distance from the eye being two-fifths of that from the vent.

Lateral line inconspicuous, running along the middle of the tail.

Coloration uniform black.

This form is extremely interesting, inasmuch as it is still nearer to the Leptocephalid condition than *Nemichthys infans*. In fact, I had to consider the possibility of its being a less advanced stage of development of that species; however, the minute size of the eye disposes of the idea of genetic affinity. Possibly some of the long forms of *Leptocephalus* are the offspring of this and the preceding genus.

PLECTOGNATHI.

The fishes of this order are littoral and a few only pelagic forms; none show in any part of their organisation special adaptation for a bathybial existence. All are bad swimmers. It is therefore not improbable that of the following two species, at least the *Monacanthus* was caught near to the surface.

Triacanthodes, Blkr.

One species only is known.

Triacanthodes anomalus, Schleg.

Triacanthodes anomalus, Günth., Report on the Shore Fishes, Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. vi. p. 50.

This species was hitherto known from Japan only. Specimens were obtained at Ki Island, Station 192, where the trawl brought up a great number of new and interesting forms from a depth of 140 fathoms.

Monacanthus, Cuv.

None of the numerous species of this genus, which is spread all over the tropical and subtropical seas, have ever been recorded from deep water, with the exception of the following.