

fish, and we therefore easily see how the number of annual rings increases proportionately with the growth of the fish. By counting the winter-rings we can ascertain how many winters each fish has lived, and by examining a great number

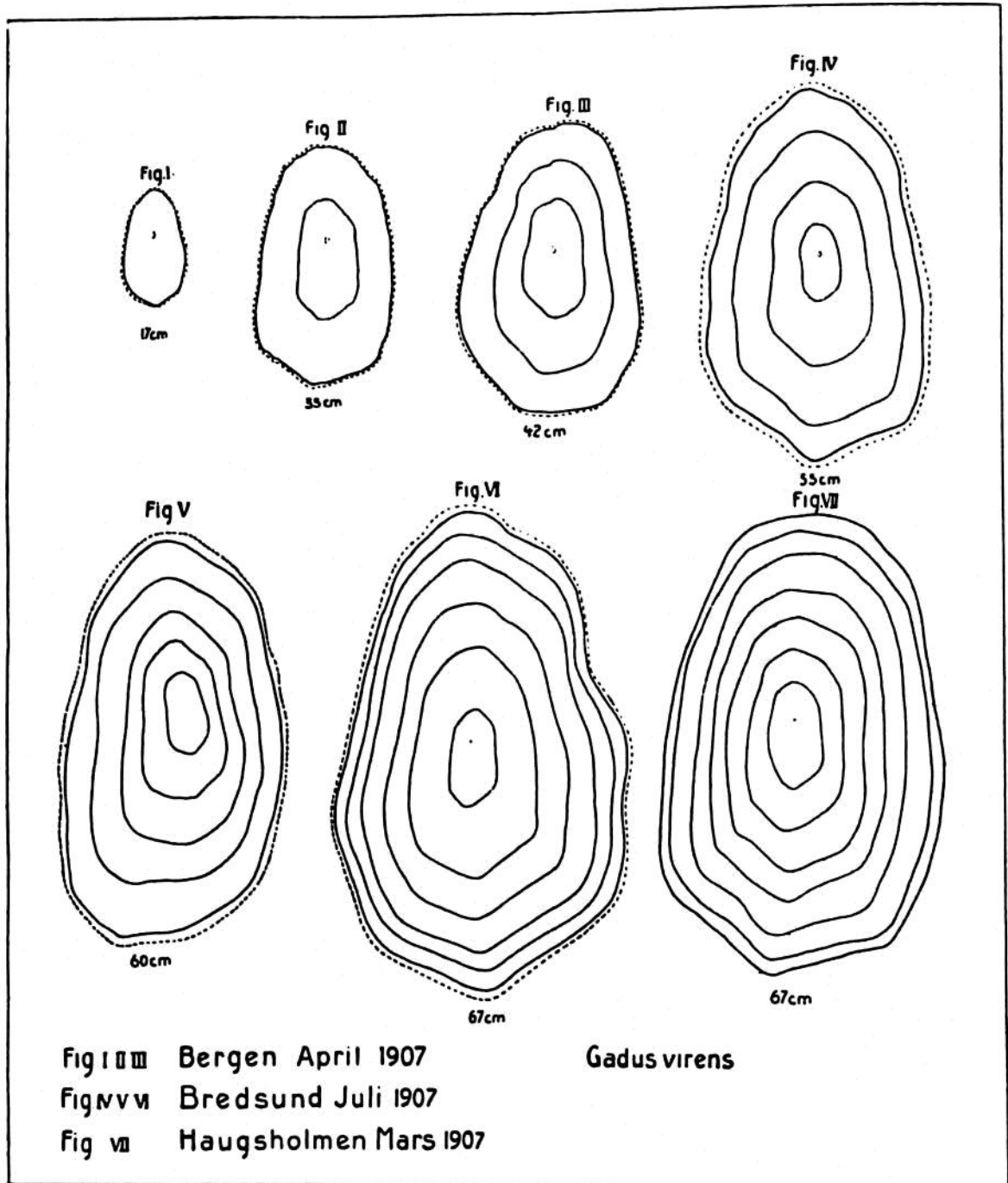


FIG. 554.

Scales of saithe (*Gadus virens*) of different sizes (size of the fish noted below each scale).
(From Damas.)

of individuals from a definite catch we may ascertain the number of individuals belonging to each annual class. In this way we may obtain an idea of the age-composition of the catch. The next step is to examine a large number of catches, and to form an estimate regarding the age-composition of the