

of moderate length, obtuse, and with the jaws equal in front; eye small, not quite one-sixth of the length of the head, and two-thirds of that of the snout. Posterior margin of the præoperculum oblique, rounded. Operculum narrow, membranaceous. Cleft of the mouth oblique, very wide, the maxillary reaching far behind the eye to the mandibular joint. It is obliquely dilated behind. Origin of the dorsal fin but little nearer to the extremity of the snout than to the root of the caudal, and not much in advance of the vent; its last ray opposite to the last ray of the anal. Pectoral with narrow base, rather small, scarcely extending to the origin of the dorsal. Ventral very small, its root equidistant from the vent and the vertical from the base of the pectoral; the caudal rays extend a considerable distance forward on the upper as well as lower side of the tail, and are enclosed within the remains of the embryonic vertical fin. Gill-rakers of the first branchial arch twenty-seven in number, the longest nearly twice as long as the eye. Transparent; with the sides of the head and the abdomen black.

Habitat.—Mid-Pacific, Station 271; depth, 2425 fathoms. One specimen, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

Near the Low Archipelago, Station 276; depth, 2350 fathoms. One specimen, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (in bad condition).

The specimen which has served for the description is not in a good state of preservation; in fact, the structure of the bones, integuments, and muscles of the fish is so soft that we can scarcely hope ever to obtain a perfect animal. The rays of the vertical fins are also much broken, so that it is impossible to distinguish in the dorsal fin between spines and rays. The soft condition of the parts, the embryonic condition of the caudal, the want of development of the ventral fins, the absence of colour, the short branchial laminæ, &c., indicate that this fish inhabits actually the great depth as recorded in the journal of the Challenger.

Stephanoberyx.

Stephanoberyx, Gill, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 1884, vol vi. p. 258.

This genus is very imperfectly known at present, and said to be closely allied to *Melamphaës*, but with cycloid scales which are armed about the centre with one or two erect spines, and with only five soft rays in the ventral fin.

Stephanoberyx monæ (D. 14. A. 13. P. 10), is named from a single small specimen, obtained by the United States S.S. "Albatross," in the Atlantic, lat. $41^{\circ} 9' N.$, long. $65^{\circ} 55'$, at a depth of 1253 fathoms.

Beryx, Cuv.

Body compressed and deep, covered with ctenoid scales which are regularly arranged; abdomen compressed, trenchant, but without enlarged dermal scutes. Head rather large,