

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW PELAGIC FISH FROM
NEW ZEALAND.

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Some months ago the Australian Museum received, through the kindness of the Fresh Food and Ice Company, Sydney, a fine specimen of an unknown pelagic fish from New Zealand, being one of a consignment forwarded to the Company for sale in Sydney, the bulk of which consisted of Trout, Rock Cod (*Percis colias*), and Flounders (*Rhombosolea monopus*). This example, having been imported for edible purposes, had of course been thoroughly cleaned before being placed in the ice chamber, and I am therefore, unable to give the number of pyloric appendages.

The occurrence of this genus in Australasian waters, is quite as interesting as the discovery of *Tetragonurus** some years ago at Lord Howe Island, and bears a close analogy to it, both genera being more or less distinctly Mediterranean types.

CENTROLOPHUS MAORICUS, *sp. nov.*

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The length of the head is equal to that of the caudal fin, and five and a half in the total length; the greatest height of the body is beneath the longest dorsal rays, and is contained five times in the same. The eye is large, and is surrounded by a prominent naked lid; it is situated near the upper profile of the head, and its diameter is four and one-tenth in the length of the head, and one and one-seventh in that of the snout, which is obtuse and abruptly truncated, and projects slightly beyond the lower jaw; the interorbital space is convex and its width is equal to the length of the snout. The nostrils are situated far forward, immediately behind the angle of the snout; the anterior is oval and vertical, the posterior much larger and subarcuate. The upper profile of the head is slightly concave. The jaws are equal, and the cleft of the mouth is of moderate width, the maxilla reaching to beneath the anterior fourth of the orbit. The vertical limb of the preopercle is straight and slightly inclined forward, its angle and lower limb finely denticulated; the margins of the sub- and inter-opercles rather more strongly so. A single series of cardiform teeth in the jaws, so irregularly placed as to form in many cases an apparently double series. The dorsal fin

* Macleay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, x. p. 718, and op. cit. (2) i. p. 511; Ramsay & Ogilby, op. cit. (2) iii. p. 9.