

STUDIES IN ICHTHYOLOGY.

No. 4.*

By

GILBERT P. WHITLEY,
Ichthyologist, Australian Museum, Sydney.

(Plates xi-xvi and Figures 1-2.)

Family RHINOBATIDÆ.

Genus *Aptychotrema* Norman, 1926.

Aptychotrema rostrata (Shaw and Nodder).

(Plate xvi, fig. 2.)

Raja rostrata Shaw and Nodder, Nat. Miscell. v, Apr. 1, 1794, pl. clxxiii. No locality. Type locality, Botany Bay, New South Wales, by present designation.

Rhinobatus (*Rhinobatus*) *banksii* Müller and Henle, Syst. Plagiost. iii, 1841, p. 123. Ex *Raja rostrata* Banks MS. New Holland. Based on a drawing in the British Museum.

Rhinobatus (*Syrrhina*) *banksii* Müller and Henle, Syst. Plagiost. iii, 1841, p. 192. New Holland. Specimen in Royal coll., Vienna. *Id.* Duméril, Hist. Nat. Poiss. (Suite à Buffon) i, 2, 1865, p. 490. A Banksian specimen in the Paris Museum.

Rhinobatus tuberculatus Macleay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vii, 1882, p. 12. Port Jackson. *Nomen nudum.*

Rhinobatus banksii Waite, Austr. Mus. Mem., iv, 1899, p. 38, pl. iii. *Id.* Ogilby, Mem. Qld. Mus., v, 1916, p. 85, fig. 1, left.

Aptychotrema banksii Norman, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1926, p. 978, fig. 30. *Id.* Whitley, Fish. N. S. Wales (McCulloch), ed. 2, 1927, first page of additions (key characters reversed in error).

Aptychotrema rostrata Musgrave and Whitley, Austr. Mus. Magazine, iv, 1931, p. 150 and photo. (Trial Bay, N. S. Wales).

Whilst at Trial Bay, northern New South Wales, in December, 1929, I secured several embryos of this species from parents nearly three feet long. Four were removed from one female and are preserved in the Australian Museum. These are 122 to 124 mm. long and have each a subspherical yolk-sac about 30 mm. in diameter.

Raja rostrata is apparently the earliest name for this species. Though figured by Shaw and Nodder from no stated locality, it bears the same name as that used by Banks in his manuscripts, and the figure is probably copied from the Banksian drawing in the British Museum upon which Müller and Henle based their name. It agrees well with Waite's figure, published over a century later, and has the eyes closer together than in the allied Australian species, *Aptychotrema bougainvillii* (Müller and Henle).

McCulloch¹ has figured the egg and embryos of *Aptychotrema vincentianus* (Haacke), which I regard as a distinct southern species, distinguishable by its

* For No. 3 see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, Vol. xvii, No. 3, 1929, p. 101.

¹ McCulloch.—Biol. Res. "Endeavour," v, 4, 1926, p. 157, figs. 1-4.