

STUDIES IN ICHTHYOLOGY.

No. 9*.

By

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(Plate xviii, texts-figs. 1-11.)

Family **GONOSTOMATIDAE.**

Sub-family **Gonostomatinae.**

Narooma, gen. nov.

Orthotype, *Narooma benefica*, sp. nov.

The reduced number of anal rays (12 instead of usually more than 20) is the main feature which separates this genus from all the others in the family. *Gonostoma raoulensis* Waite 1910 is apparently congeneric.

Narooma benefica, sp. nov.

D. 8 (+?); A. 12.

Head (9 mm.) 3.3, depth (6) 5 in standard length (30). Eye (3) 3, interorbital (2) 4.5, upper jaw (6.5) 1.3 in head.

Photophore formula: $\frac{0}{6} + \frac{12}{16} + \frac{10}{9} + \frac{0}{13}$ on body.

General facies of *Gonostoma raoulensis* Waite¹.

A row of fine, unequal teeth on jaws and roof of mouth. Gill-rakers slender and numerous. A large photophore below eye and another before it. Suborbital not enlarged. Four photophores between maxilla and operculum. Six photophores along chin under gill-flap. A photophore at the mandibular symphysis. Two rows of photophores along lower part of body, and a single row on tail. Upper row ceasing over vent, lower row continuous with the series on the tail.

Body moderately elongate, compressed, covered with deciduous cycloid scales.

Dorsal originating well in advance of anal, but behind origin of ventrals. Apparently no adipose dorsal fin. Caudal forked.

General colour (in alcohol) silvery, becoming brown on caudal peduncle and along back. A dark blotch on each scale on the back, the blotches forming spaced spots as the chromatophores descend lower on the sides towards the caudal peduncle. Photophores bluish-black and yellowish. Eye bluish. Fins white.

Described from the holotype of the species, a specimen, 30 mm. in standard length or nearly 1½ inches overall.

Locality.—Found washed up on a beach near Narooma, southern New South Wales, in September, 1930, by G. P. Whitley. Possibly it had been brought up from deep water by the trawlers in the vicinity of Montague Island and was later cast ashore, where it was slightly attacked by beach crustacea. (Australian Museum regd. No. IA. 4647.)

* For No. 8, see Records of The Australian Museum, Vol. xix, No. 2, 1934, p. 153.

¹ Waite.—Trans. N.Z. Inst. xlii, 1910, p. 373, pl. xxxv, fig. 7: Raou I., Kermadec Group.