Synopsis of the Cichlid Genera represented in Mexico and Central America.

I. Anal fin with 3 spines.
   No lobe on the anterior branchial arch ..................................  1. **Acara**.
   A compressed lobe on the upper part of the anterior branchial arch 2. **Geophagus**.

II. Anal fin with more than 3 spines.
   Teeth all conical or cylindrical; mouth small or moderate, moderately
   protractile, the premaxillary spines (ascending processes) shorter
   than the head ..................................................  3. **Cichlosoma**.
   Teeth all conical or cylindrical; mouth large, very protractile, the
   premaxillary spines as long as the head ..................................  4. **Petenia**.
   Several series of small conical teeth and an outer series of larger teeth,
   all or most of which are compressed, incisor-like ..................  5. **Hericthys**.
   Teeth all compressed, entire, with pointed or rounded apices ..........  6. **Paraneetroplus**.
   Teeth all compressed, entire, with truncate apices ..................  7. **Neetroplus**.
   Teeth all compressed, mostly tricuspid, only the median ones of the
   outer series being entire, with truncate apices ..................  8. **Herotilapia**.

1. **Acara**, Heck., 1840.


This, the most generalized genus of American Cichlidae, is very closely allied to the
African **Paratilapia**, which it resembles not only in external features, but also in
the anatomy. The only difference between them is that the maxillary is completely
hidden by the preorbital in **Acara**, whilst it is more or less exposed distally in
**Paratilapia**. Of the nineteen species of **Acara**, only one is found as far north as the
Isthmus of Panama.

1. **Acara coeruleopunctata**, Kner & Steind., 1863.


D. XIV-XV 10-11. A. III 8-9. Sc. 26-28 \( \frac{5}{8} \). Preoperculum scaleless; dorsal and anal fins scaleless;
   depth of body 2 to 2\( \frac{1}{4} \) in the length; 6 gill-rakers on the lower part of anterior arch; dorsal spines
   increasing in length to the last, which is nearly \( \frac{1}{2} \) the length of head.

**Hab.** PANAMA, Rio Chagres.—N.W. ECUADOR.

2. **Geophagus**, Heck., 1840.


Closely allied to **Acara**, differing only in the structure of the anterior branchial arch. Of the twelve species
eleven are South American.

1. **Geophagus crassilabris**, Steind., 1877.


D. XVI 10-11. A. III 7-8. Sc. 30-31 \( \frac{4}{5} \). 14 or 15 gill-rakers on the lower part of anterior arch;
   pectoral \( \frac{3}{8} \) the length of head, not extending to above the anal.

**Hab.** PANAMA.