8. *Centropomus ensiferus.*

*Centropomus undecimnalis* (part.), Günth. Cat. Fish. i. p. 79 (1859) 1.


*Centropomus ensiferus* (part.), Boulen. Cat. Fish. i. p. 370 (1895) 11.

Depth of body $3\frac{3}{4}$-4 in the length, length of head $2\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{2}{3}$. Snout $1\frac{1}{4}-2$ as long as eye, the diameter of which is $6-8$ in the length of head; interorbital width about $8$ in the length of head. Maxillary extending to below anterior $\frac{1}{4}$ or nearly to middle of eye, its greatest width $\frac{1}{2}$ the diameter of eye. Preorbital sharply serrated posteriorly; preoperculum acutely serrated, the serrae enlarged at the angle; preoperculare ridge with 1 or 2 spines at the angle. Opercular flap extending to or a little beyond the vertical from origin of dorsal. 17-19 gill-rakers, including 2 or 3 rudiments, on the lower part of anterior arch. 52-58 scales in a longitudinal series, $5\frac{1}{4}-6\frac{1}{2}$ between middle of second dorsal and lateral line. Dorsal VIII, I 10; spines moderately strong, the third or fourth the longest, $\frac{3}{2}-\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head. Anal III 6; third spine $\frac{3}{2}-\frac{3}{4}$ as long as the second, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the fish. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of head. Ventrales extending nearly to the vent, which is situated at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance from base of ventral spine to origin of anal. Caudal peduncle $1\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep. Silvery, back brownish; lateral line not blackish; spinous dorsal and membrane between second and third anal spines usually blackish.

Hab. Atlantic Coasts of Tropical America, entering rivers:

British Honduras, Belize 1 $10^{11}$ (Salvin).—Cuba 2; Jamaica 1; Trinidad; British Guiana 1 $8^{11}$; Rio Janeiro 8; Caju$\$"u$ba$ 8.

Here described from five specimens from Belize, Trinidad, and Jamaica, 200-280 mm. in total length.


*Centropomus ensiferus* (part.), Boulen. Cat. Fish. i. p. 369 (1895) 5.


Depth of body $3-4$ in the length, length of head $2\frac{2}{3}-2\frac{3}{4}$. Snout $1\frac{1}{2}-2$ as long as eye, the diameter of which is $6-7\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head; interorbital width $7$ in the length of head. Maxillary extending to below middle of eye or beyond, its greatest width $\frac{3}{4}$ the diameter of eye. Preorbital strongly serrated posteriorly; preoperculum acutely serrated, with 2 or 3 strongly enlarged serrae at the angle; preoperculare ridge with 1 or 2 spines at the angle. Opercular flap extending a little beyond the vertical from origin of dorsal. 13-15 gill-rakers, including 2 or 3 rudiments, on the lower part of anterior arch. 50-56 scales in a longitudinal series, $7-8\frac{1}{2}$ between middle of second dorsal and lateral line. Dorsal VIII, I 10; spines strong, the third often slightly longer than the fourth, $\frac{3}{4}-\frac{3}{2}$ the length of head. Anal III 6 (exceptionally 7); third spine $\frac{3}{2}-\frac{3}{4}$ as long as the second, which is $\frac{3}{4}-\frac{3}{2}$ the length of the fish. Pectoral $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head. Ventrales extending to the vent, which is situated at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance from base of ventral spine to origin of anal. Caudal peduncle $1\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep. Silvery,