There are examples of the former species, collected by Herr Forrer at Presidio, in the British Museum collection. Atlantic coast species are *P. virginicus*, Linn., and *P. octonemus*, Girard, the former usually with 7 pectoral filaments, the latter usually with 8.

Sub-order IV. HAPLOMI.

The Haplomi are represented in the fresh waters of Mexico and Central America by two families, Scombresocidae and Cyprinodontidae, which may be distinguished from other soft-rayed fishes with abdominal ventral fins by the following combination of characters:—"Jaws toothed; premaxillaries wholly or in great part excluding the maxillaries from the upper border of the mouth. Gill-membranes free from the isthmus. Body scaly; lateral line either absent or placed very low. Fins without spinous rays; a single dorsal; no adipose fin; ventral fins, if present, 5- to 7-rayed, abdominal in position."

The two families may be distinguished thus:

Lateral line present, running along the edge of the lower surface of the body ................................................................. 1. Scombresocidae.

No lateral line ........................................................................ 2. Cyprinodontidae.

Fam. 1. SCOMBRESOCIDÆ.

The Scombresocidae are marine Fishes of the tropical and temperate seas. Some of the species of *Belone* and *Hemirhamphus* enter rivers, and a few permanently fluviatile forms are now usually referred to distinct genera.

1. BELONE, Cuv., 1817.

*Belone*, Günth. Cat. Fish. vi. p. 234 (1866).


Body slender, elongate. Mouth with wide lateral cleft, both jaws being much prolonged; jaws with small pointed teeth in bands and with a series of enlarged, wide-set, conical teeth; palate toothless. Scales small. Dorsal and anal fins opposite each other and posterior in position; caudal lunate or forked; pectorals asymmetrical, placed high; ventrals 6-rayed, inserted posteriorly.

Many species from tropical and temperate seas; of eighteen American forms, two have been recorded from fresh-water localities in Mexico and Central America.
