7. CHARACODON, Günth., 1866.


Viviparous. Anal fin of the male with the anterior five or six rays short, stiff, and subequal, separated by a more or less distinct notch from the rest of the fin. Mouth rather small, with short lateral cleft; rami of lower jaw firmly united; minute teeth in bands, with an outer series of enlarged, fixed, bicuspid teeth.

Hab. Mexico and Lower California.

Synopsis of the Species.

I. Dorsal and anal fins each with more than 25 rays ........ 1. multiradiatus.

II. Dorsal and anal fins each with less than 20 rays.

A. 32 to 36 scales in a longitudinal series.

Origin of anal below middle of dorsal; origin of dorsal equidistant from tip of snout and base of caudal or a little nearer the latter ........ 2. encaustus.

Origin of anal below anterior part of dorsal; origin of dorsal about equidistant from tip of snout and posterior end of caudal fin ........ 3. variatus.

Origin of anal a little in advance of that of the dorsal, which is equidistant from posterior part of head and posterior end of caudal fin ........ 4. lateralis.

B. 50 to 55 scales in a longitudinal series ........ 5. furcidens.

1. Characodon multiradiatus. (Tab. XII. figg. 3, 4.)


Depth of body $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4. Snout a little shorter than eye, the diameter of which is 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head; interorbital width 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head. About 40 scales in a longitudinal series *. Dorsal 28-33; origin nearer to tip of snout than to base of caudal (♂) or nearer to the caudal (♀). Anal 29-32; origin below the anterior part of the dorsal. Pectoral $\frac{3}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head. Caudal subtruncate. Olivaceous, with irregular dark cross-bars; vertical fins, in the males, with blackish edges.


Here described from four specimens, measuring up to 45 mm. in total length, from Lerma (Meek).

2. Characodon encaustus.


Depth of body 3 to $3\frac{3}{2}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4. Snout as long as or shorter than eye, the diameter of which is 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head; interorbital width $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in the length of head.

* When the scales are regularly arranged I count not more than 40 in a longitudinal series. Sometimes they are irregular, two scales from series above and below meeting to exclude a scale from contact with what should be the next one in its longitudinal series; in one specimen this occurs to such an extent that more than 45 may be counted from above the pectoral to the caudal.