

portion being usually considerably shorter than the posterior soft-rayed one; (2) the presence of only one or two anal spines; and (3) the toothless palate.

One permanently fluviatile species (*Haploidonotus grunniens*) is found in the rivers of Mexico and Central America, but whether any of the Sciænid shore-fishes of this region ascend rivers above the influence of the tides is uncertain *.

HAPLOIDONOTUS, Rafin., 1819.

Aplodinotus, Jord. & Everm. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1898, p. 1484.

Body rather deep, compressed. Mouth subterminal; no barbels; præmaxillaries protractile; maxillary concealed by the præorbital; no supramaxillary; jaws with bands of small pointed teeth; palate toothless; lower pharyngeals large, completely united, with molariform teeth; præoperculum weakly denticulated. Scales of moderate size, ciliated; lateral line curved anteriorly, continued nearly to the end of the caudal fin. A single dorsal, scaly at the base, with X 29–32 rays; anal with II 7 rays; caudal doubly truncate; pectoral asymmetrical, pointed; ventrals each of a spine and 5 branched rays, inserted a little behind the base of the pectorals, without scaly axillary processes.

1. *Haploidonotus grunniens*, Rafin., 1819.

Corvina oscula, Günth. Cat. Fish. ii. p. 297 (1860).

Aplodinotus grunniens, Jord. & Everm. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1898, p. 1484.

Depth of body $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{4}{5}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{3}{4}$. Back elevated, the ventral profile being nearly straight. Snout short, obtuse; maxillary extending to below posterior part of eye, the diameter of which is about 5 in the length of head and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the interorbital width. Scales 56–62 $\frac{8-10}{13-16}$. Dorsal X 29–32; spines moderately strong, the third highest, $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of head and nearly as long as the longest branched rays. Anal II 7; second spine strong, about as long as the longest dorsal spine, shorter than the anterior branched rays. Pectoral as long as the head. Silvery, back darker; vertical fins dusky.

Hab. Rivers and lakes of North America, from the Great Lakes to Chiapas (in Mexico recorded from Matamoros in Tamaulipas and the Rio Usumacinta).

This species, here described from Winnipeg examples of from 250 to 300 mm., attains a weight of 50 or 60 pounds.

Fam. 7. PERCIDÆ.

The Percidæ are a large family inhabiting the fresh waters of North America and Western Eurasia. The majority of the American species are the small fishes known as “darters,” a few of which occur in Northern Mexico. These belong to two very closely allied genera, *Percina* and *Etheostoma*, which may be distinguished from other Perciform fishes by the following diagnosis:—

Body more or less elongate and compressed. Mouth small or moderate; præmaxillaries not protractile, except at the sides; maxillary exposed, but slipping under the præorbital for the whole length of its upper edge; villiform teeth in the jaws and usually on the palate. Scales small, denticulated. Two dorsals, with

* In the British Museum are examples of *Bairdiella icistia*, Jord. & Gilb., and *Cynoscion xanthulus*, Jord. & Gilb., collected by Herr Forrer in the Rio Presidio, but probably near the mouth of the river.