

the fin, below which are longitudinal stripes and above which are numerous smaller spots; caudal with series of small spots.

Hab. South Carolina to Tamaulipas :

Pensacola in Florida; New Orleans ^{1 6}; Indianola ⁸ and Brownsville ⁷ in Texas; Matamoros ¹⁰, Palo Alto ⁹, La Vega ⁵, and Tampico ⁵ in Tamaulipas.

Here described from several specimens, measuring up to 75 mm. in total length, from New Orleans, Pensacola, and Tampico. Garman's plate illustrates strikingly the differences between the sexes and the changes during growth in this species, which attains a length of 100 mm.

2. *Mollienisia petenensis*.

Mollienisia petenensis, Günth. Cat. Fish. vi. p. 348 (1866) ¹, and Trans. Zool. Soc. vi. 1868, p. 485, t. 86. figs. 1-3 ²; Jord. & Everm. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1896, p. 700 ³.

Depth of body $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 in the length, length of head 4. 28 to 30 scales in a longitudinal series. Dorsal 15-16.

Anal 9. Caudal rounded or subtruncate, in the males with the lower angle pointed and slightly produced. Males with a small dark spot on each scale of the upper and posterior parts of the body and with the lower edge of the caudal blackish; dorsal fin coloured as in *M. latipinna*.

Hab. GUATEMALA, Lake Peten (*Salvin*) ^{1 2}.

Here described from the types, six specimens, measuring up to 130 mm. in total length. This species is very close to the preceding, but it attains a larger size and is distinguished by the form of the caudal in the males, which suggests relationship with *Xiphophorus*.

15. XIPHOPHORUS, Heck., 1848.

Xiphophorus, Jord. & Everm. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1896, p. 701.

Scarcely generically distinct from *Pecilia* and *Mollienisia*. Dorsal with 11 to 15 rays, higher but not much longer in the males than in the females. Males with the lower rays of the caudal fin produced to form a long pointed appendage.

Hab. Tamaulipas to British Honduras.

The five closely allied species of this genus agree in the following features:—Snout as long as or a little shorter than eye, the diameter of which is 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head, interorbital width $1\frac{3}{5}$ to $1\frac{4}{5}$. Origin of dorsal about equidistant from tip of snout and base of caudal, well in advance of that of the anal (♀). Pectoral nearly as long as the head. Caudal appendage of the males pale, with black edges.

Synopsis of the Species.

I. Anal with 6 to 8 rays 1. *montezumæ*.

II. Anal with 8 to 10 rays.

A. Depth of body 3-4 in the length.

1. Least depth of caudal peduncle not greater than the distance from anterior margin of eye to free edge of operculum 2. *helleri*.