

- B. Posterior nostril with a barbel; barbels 8; ventral fins with 8 or 9 rays.  
 Præmaxillary band of teeth of equal breadth throughout, or sometimes very  
 slightly produced backwards at the sides; lower jaw not projecting . . . 7. AMIURUS.  
 Præmaxillary band of teeth with a well-developed posterior extension on each  
 side; lower jaw somewhat projecting . . . . . 8. LEPTOPS.

### 1. ÆLURICHTHYS, Baird & Girard, 1854.

*Ælurichthys*, Günth. Cat. Fish. v. p. 177 (1864).

*Felichthys* (Swainson), Jord. & Everm. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. xlvii. 1896, p. 116.

Body elongate. Mouth terminal or subterminal; jaws with villiform teeth in bands; vomerine and palatine teeth; nostrils close together, the posterior with a flap; a pair of maxillary and a pair of mental barbels. Parieto-occipital with a process which extends posteriorly to the small basal shield of the dorsal spine. Dorsal fin with a strong spine and 7 branched rays; adipose fin short; anal moderate or rather long; ventral fins 6-rayed; caudal deeply forked.

Eight species from the Coasts and Rivers of America.

It seems most useful to deal here with the whole genus and not to omit the two species (*A. bahiensis* and *A. bagre*) which are not known to range so far north as Central America, but which may do so.

#### *Synopsis of the Species.*

I. Occipital process of nearly equal breadth throughout, with convex lateral edges\*; spine of dorsal fin not bearing a filament; about 14 gill-rakers on the lower part of the anterior arch.

A. Vomerine patches of teeth separate, nearly equal in length and breadth to the palatine patches; occipital process not broader than long; anal of 26 or 27 rays . . . . . 1. *panamensis*.

B. Vomerine patches of teeth united, considerably broader than the palatine patches; occipital process broader than long.

Breadth of occipital process  $\frac{2}{5}$  or nearly  $\frac{2}{5}$  the length of head; anal of 28 rays, produced anteriorly, the longest ray, when laid back, reaching beyond the end of the base of the fin . . . . . 2. *scutatus*.

Breadth of occipital process  $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of head; anal of 29 or 30 rays, the longest, when laid back, not reaching the end of the base of the fin . . . 3. *isthmensis*.

II. Occipital process narrowed posteriorly, with concave or straight lateral edges; spine of dorsal fin bearing a long filamentous ray; not more than 10 gill-rakers on the lower part of the anterior arch.

A. Distance from tip of snout to origin of dorsal nearly  $\frac{1}{3}$  the length of the fish (to base of caudal).

1. Pectoral spine  $\frac{3}{5}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  as long as the head.

Anal of 22 to 24 rays, the longest nearly as long as or shorter than the base of the fin; dorsal filament not reaching the adipose fin . . . . . 4. *marinus*.

\* In the species of this section the occipital process has the appearance of a separate nuchal shield.