

lateral line and base of ventral. Caudal peduncle nearly twice as long as deep. Brownish; young with a dark lateral band.

*Hab.* Tributaries of the Rio Grande in Northern Mexico:

Santa Rosalia in Chihuahua<sup>3</sup>; Coahuila<sup>1</sup>; Montemorelos in Nuevo Leon<sup>3</sup> (*Meek*).

Here described from two specimens, 60 and 85 mm. in total length.

### Fam. 4. CHARACINIDÆ.

The Characinidæ comprise about 500 species from the fresh-waters of Mexico and South America and 100 from Africa. The family is in many ways the most generalized of the Ostariophysi, but is closely related to the Cyprinidæ. In the Mexican and Central-American species the body is scaly, the maxillary enters the gape of the mouth, the branchiostegals number 3 to 5 and the gill-membranes are free from the isthmus. An adipose dorsal fin is often present and the jaws are usually toothed.

#### *Synopsis of the Mexican and Central-American Genera.*

##### I. Teeth well developed in both jaws.

A. No adipose fin; anal fin short, of 10–12 rays; body rather elongate; mouth large; teeth conical . . . . . 1. HOPLIAS.

##### B. An adipose fin.

1. Anal fin short, of 10–12 rays; body rather elongate.

Mouth moderate; teeth in jaws compressed, cuspidate; palate toothless; dorsal fin in the middle of the length of the fish . . . . . 2. PIABUCINA.

Mouth large, the snout produced, the jaws with small conical teeth in a single series; palate toothed; dorsal fin posterior in position . . . . 3. LUCIOCHARAX.

2. Anal fin rather long, of 20 to 40 rays; teeth compressed, cuspidate.

a. Teeth of the outer series in both jaws subequal, without canines.

α. Body oblong or ovate; abdomen in front of the ventral fins rounded.

A pair of conical teeth behind the middle of the series in the lower jaw; præmaxillary teeth in 3 or 4 series . . . . . 4. BRYCON.

No pair of conical teeth in the lower jaw; præmaxillary teeth in 2 series . . . . . 5. TETRAGONOPTERUS.

No pair of conical teeth in the lower jaw; præmaxillary teeth in a single series . . . . . 6. CHIRODON.

β. Body deep; abdomen in front of ventral fins compressed to a sharp edge . . . . . 7. GASTROPELECUS.

b. Some of the anterior teeth enlarged, canine-like; snout somewhat produced . . . . . 8. BRAMOCHARAX.

3. Anal fin very long, of 45 to 55 rays; teeth conical . . . . . 9. RÆBOIDES.

##### II. Jaws toothless; anal fin short . . . . . 10. CURIMATUS.