

August. I have also found in them sand-eels. This is a small fish as clear as a herring, but long and thin, and buries itself in a moment in the sand whenever it hears or sees an enemy approaching. At times it is caught for bait for the white fishermen's lines with a very small meshed net, and in large quantities. I have also found in them young parr and trout, and frequently perch and minnows.

DENHAM GREEN, *Trinity, Edinburgh, December 18, 1882.*

87.—A NOTE ON THE ATLANTIC SPECIES OF THE GENUS ANGUILLA.

By SETH E. MEEK.

In the Synopsis of the Fishes of North America by Jordan & Gilbert, two species of the genus *Anguilla* are recorded, *Anguilla rostrata*, the American, and *Anguilla vulgaris*, the European, species. With a view to testing the value of the characters assumed to distinguish these two species I have carefully compared several specimens from both sides of the Atlantic.

In the American specimens, the dorsal fin is proportionately farther from the end of snout, making the distance between front of dorsal and front of anal a little shorter than in the European specimens. Otherwise no permanent difference seems to exist. We should not, therefore, in my opinion, consider the two as distinct species, but rather as geographical varieties of the same species. Below is given a table of eleven specimens, seven European and four American. The proportions are given in hundredths of the length to the end of last vertebra. All the specimens mentioned are in the collection of Jordan and Gilbert.

Dimensions.	LOCALITIES.												
	European examples, <i>Anguilla vulgaris</i> (Shaw).							American examples subs. <i>rostrata</i> (Le Sueur).					
	Genoa.	Genoa.	Paris.	Venice.	Venice.	Venice.	Venice.	Average.	Average.	Wood's Holl, Mass.	Wood's Holl, Mass.	Indian River, Fla.	Pensacola, Fla.
Length of head.....	13½	13½	12	13	12½	12½	14½	13.2	13.8	11½	13	13½	12½
Distance from end of snout to front of dorsal.....	31	30½	30	31½	30	29½	31½	30.5	33.0	20½	33½	35½	33½
Distance from end of snout to front of anal.....	45	43	44½	43	42½	43½	46	43.8	43.7	41½	44½	46	43½
Distance from front of dorsal to front of anal.....	14	13½	14½	12½	12½	14	14½	13.6	10.6	11½	10½	10½	9½
Length of mandible.....	5½	6	5	5½	5	5	6	5.5	5.3	4½	5½	6	5
Length of pectoral.....	4	3½	4	4	4	4	4½	4.0	4.0	4	4	4	4½
Depth of body at front of anal.....	5½	5	5½	5	5	5½	5½	5.2	5.5	5½	5	5	6½
Distance from gills to vent.....	27½	28½	32	29½	29½	30	30½	29.6	30.5	29½	32	30½	30
Length in inches.....	16½	16½	20½	11½	12½	12½	23½	12½	18½	10½	19½