

scarcely longest, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in head. Anal comparatively long and high, its longest rays $2\frac{1}{4}$ in head, its margin somewhat concave.

Ventrals moderate. Vent much nearer base of ventrals than anal.

Color rather dull grayish brown, with bluish and purple reflections above, paler below; fins all pale, or the lower more or less dusky. Maxillary and outer mental barbels blackish.

This species is not very abundant at Panama, where two specimens were obtained.

Among the species here noticed, this is decidedly the most aberrant. It may be considered as the type of a distinct subgenus, characterized chiefly by the position of the eyes. This group may be known as *Cathorops*. (*Kathopaw*—to look down; *ὤψ*—eye.)

SPECIMENS IN UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

29436. Panama. Gilbert.

29508. Panama. Gilbert.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, *May 27, 1882.*

A POOR SEASON FOR SHAD HATCHING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

By S. G. WORTH.

(Letter to Col. M. McDonald.)

I have been in Raleigh a week getting the affairs of my shad work fixed up. We had poor luck at Avoca; hatched only 2,260,000 fish. We attended every haul at Dr. Capehart's fisheries, and for more than a week attended three fisheries on the Roanoke. I also attended three other fisheries near Plymouth (on the Roanoke) for three days, and many of the dip-nets at Weldon. It would appear that the cause was due (1) to the cold and variable weather, and (2) to the poor character of fishing done at Sutton Beach, our chief source of supply.

The catch in Albemarle Sound, according to Dr. Capehart, is smaller than usual; but I am disinclined to think so. He had an inferior season, running about 7,000 shad below last year. The catch on the Roanoke was better than for years; and I learn that the same increase was apparent on the Neuse and Tar. The Cape Fear was below last year very considerably. Your jars worked beautifully, and the additions to the glass tubes were found unnecessary.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

Raleigh, N. C., May 20, 1882.