

## ORDER 4.—Apodal, without ventral fins.

## Family 1.—ANGUILLIDÆ—The Eel Family.

Genus 1.—*Anguilla*—The Eel.Species 1.—*Anguilla vulgaris*—The common Eel.

The eel inhabits both fresh and salt water, and is taken in every situation in these Colonies which it can reach. Its colour is greenish olive above, yellow beneath; this colour extending along the base of the anal fin, nearly to the end of the tail. It is caught in a variety of ways; but taking the eel with hook and line, is considered much too tedious and troublesome. In summer, it is caught in long round Indian baskets, called eel-pots; it is also taken by torch-light, with the spear. In winter it is taken through holes in the ice, by spearing it in the mud, where it then lies torpid. The places where this fishing takes place are generally well known, and are termed "eel-grounds."

It is very voracious, feeding on aquatic insects, small fishes, and all dead animal substances that come in its way. The structure of its branchial pouches enables it to live out of water for a long time; and as it can move along the ground, it is not uncommon to find the eel shifting its quarters from one creek or lake to another, by crawling through the grass.

The common eel, when in good condition, is a very excellent, well-flavoured fish. It varies greatly in size, being taken from 6 inches to 2 feet or more in length.

Dr. DeKay says he has examined the "silver eel," so called, and considers it only a variety of the common eel. Its general colour is silvery gray, darker above, and a clear white belly shining like satin.

Species 2.—*Anguilla oceanica*—The Sea Eel.

Dr. DeKay gives this name to a sea eel found on the coast of New York, which the writer has also noticed in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. It is described as brownish on the back; pale on the sides; beneath, smutty white; fins tipped with bluish white, or pale blue. It was first observed in June 1842, at Lennox Island in Richmond Bay, on the north side of Prince Edward Island. The Indians had there taken several with torch and spear, which were three feet in length. A specimen was also shown to the writer at Pokemouche, (north of the Miramichi,) in October 1849, by a Micmac Indian, who had split, salted, and smoked it. In that state, without the head, it was about the size of an ordinary smoked salmon, and fully as thick; it was taken in Pokemouche Gully, by torch-light, with a basse spear.

The Micmacs say, that this eel is exceedingly shy, and cannot be induced by any means to enter an eel-pot. Those seen by