

ACIPENSER OXYRHINCHUS.

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French—*Esturgeon à bec pointu.*

Known in Canada under the name of *Ecaillé* or *Maille*.

English—*Sharp-nosed Sturgeon.* *Common Sturgeon.*

Order of *Chondropterygii*; with free branchiæ; of the family of *Sturionidæ*; of the genus *Sturgeon*.

This species of the family *Sturionidæ* much resembles the common Sturgeon of Europe (*Acipenser Sturio*), and is peculiar to North America. It has been well described by Lesueur.

The ordinary size of the Sturgeon is from two to three feet, but larger ones are often met with. It is at once known by its elongated snout, its numerous and strong plates, varying in number according to the age of the fish, and resembling spinuous shields, covering the body in five series, one on the back, two on the sides, and two underneath. Mouth at the snout, transverse, without teeth and very protactile, with barbels under the snout. The dorsal fin rises far behind, is pretty large, and deeply concave at its margin. Pectorals short and obtusely pointed, ventrals still smaller, anal pointed; caudal fin, with upper lobe elongated, which makes the tail of the Sturgeon resemble that of some species of sharks.

The flesh of the Sturgeon is very healthy and agreeable, although disliked by many in Canada. It is the reverse in Europe, where it is highly estimated, and preserved pickled. This fish is very common in the whole of the St. Lawrence, and in many streams emptying into it. At certain periods of the year it is caught in great quantity. It is often seen on our markets.

There is another species of Sturgeon commonly called here *the racer*, having a rounded and shorter snout than the sharp-nosed Sturgeon, with less projecting scales on the body. It is probably the *Acipenser brevirostris* of Lesueur. Having had no opportunity of examining it I cannot give a description of it.

Sturgeon of a very large size are often caught on the Gulf shores resembling very much the variety known in Europe under the name of *Acipenser Sturio*. It is the common Sturgeon of Western Europe.

I hope to be able next year to get a specimen in the Gulf, to make a minute study of in order to determine its species.

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