

of head without its prolongations. Dorsal origin directly in line with upper angle of gill opening; the origin of anal under that of second dorsal; ventrals slightly in advance of pectorals, and not so far back, though their tips reach somewhat beyond vent; pectorals rather long; about 25 rows of scales. Gulf of Mexico. The type, about 2 inches long, is in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, and has been examined in the preparation of this description, but the example being unique and small, we have not ventured to examine it so closely as would have been practicable with more material. It is, however, apparently a well-marked species, resembling in a general way *P. longispinum*. It was obtained by Poey from the stomach of *Polymixia nobilis*, taken near Cuba in deep water. (Goode & Bean). Near Cuba, in deep water, from stomachs of *Polymixia* (Coll. Poey). A few specimens in bad condition were taken by Jordan & Stearns from stomachs of Groupers and Snappers on the Snapper Banks off Pensacola. In these specimens, which seem to represent Poey's *imberbis*, the dorsal rays are about V-19, scutes 30; each side of body with 4 rows of spinous plates, the ventral series with hooked spines. (*imberbis*, beardless.)

Peristedion imberbe, POEY, Mem. Hist. Nat. Cuba, II, 367, 380, 1861, Cuba; POEY, Rep. Fish. Nat. Cuba, II, 158, 1866; JORDAN, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1884, 38; GOODE & BEAN, Oceanic Ichthyology, 472, 1896.

Peristedion micronemus, POEY, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., IX, 1870, 321, Cuba; substitute name on finding the existence of barbels.

Peristethus micronema, GÜNTHER, Challenger Report, Deep Sea Fishes, XXII, 65, 1887.

Family CLXXXVI. CEPHALACANTHIDÆ.

(THE FLYING GURNARDS.)

Body elongate, subquadrangular, tapering behind; head very blunt, quadrangular, its surface almost entirely bony; nasals, preorbitals, suborbitals, and bones of top of head united into a shield; nuchal part of shield on each side produced backward in a bony ridge, ending in a strong spine, which reaches past front of dorsal; interocular space deeply concave; preorbitals forming a projecting roof above the jaws; preopercle produced in a very long rough spine; cheeks and opercles with small scales; opercle smaller than eye; gill openings narrow, vertical, separated by a very broad, scaly isthmus; pseudobranchie large; gill rakers minute; mouth small, lower jaw included; jaws with granular teeth; no teeth on vomer or palatines; scales bony, strongly keeled; 2 serrated, knife-like appendages at base of tail; first dorsal of 4 or 5 rather high flexible spines, the first 1 or 2 spines nearly free from the others; an immovable spine between the dorsals; anal and second dorsal short, of slender rays; caudal small, lunate; pectoral fins divided to the base into 2 parts, the anterior portion about as long as the head, of about 6 rays, closely connected; the posterior and larger portion more than twice length of head, reaching nearly to caudal in the adult (*Dactylopterus*); much shorter in the young (*Cephalacanthus*); these rays very slender, simple, wide apart at tip; ventral rays I, 4, the long fins pointed, their bases close together,