

crystals. Head encased in a bony covering, and lengthened with an acute conical snout; mouth on the under side of the head; four barbels between the mouth and the snout; the upper lobe of the caudal fin elongated and forked. Colour, dark olive, grey above, occasionally brownish or rose coloured; light ash grey beneath; fins often red. It is sometimes called the *Rock Sturgeon*, and is much better eating than the former species. Both kinds are very destructive to fishermen's nets, their bony serrated plates cutting the meshes in their endeavours to escape, and injuring the nets to such a degree, if several are caught during the same tide or draw, that it takes days to repair the damage done; and even captured, their market value does not reward the trouble.

ORDER CYCLOSTOMI.

FAMILY PETROMYZONIDÆ.—GENUS PETROMYZON.—PETROMYZON NIGRICANS.—(*Blue Lamprey*).—Body cylindrical, compressed behind; head oval, flattened on the top. Seven branchial apertures or small round openings on each side of the neck, running obliquely backwards and downwards from the eyes, giving it a remarkable appearance. Mouth circular, cartilaginous, half an inch in diameter, surrounded by a fleshy margin. Eyes, moderate size. A spiracle on the top of the head, anterior to the eyes; the dorsal fin is attached to the caudal, which is a simple membrane, triangular at its termination and uniting with the anal which is very small. Color, upper part of the body bluish grey; below, dingy white. Several rows of blackish dots about the head and neck; on the top of the head between the eyes a small white spot. Length, five to seven inches. The *Lampreys* or *Lamper Eels*, as they are called, resemble in their habits the blood-sucker, much more than the ordinary fishes. They obtain their subsistence principally by attaching themselves by their mouths to the bodies of the larger fishes, and drawing nourishment from them by suction; for this purpose their mouths and tongue are admirably adapted, the latter acting in the throat like the piston of a pump, while the circular formation of the former adheres closely to the side of its prey, and by this means the softer portions of the larger fish are drawn into the mouth and swallowed by the parasite. When a lamprey once fastens itself in this manner upon a large fish, it adheres with such force as to baffle all the efforts of the fish to rid himself of his unwelcome incumbrance. Fishes are frequently taken with lampreys adhering