



THE AMERICAN TUNNY.

## Natural History.

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BY C. F. HOLDER.

Probably no family of fishes exceeds the mackerels (*Scombrinae*) in their economic value. Having a wide geographical range, the different genera are found in almost all the waters of the world, everywhere being a benefit to man and from their beauty, form, and peculiar habits attracting universal attention. The family is divided into four sub-families: 1st. *Scombrinae*, distinguished by the short first dorsal and the wide

space between it and the second, and the pectorals high up, including the genus *Scomber*, or common mackerels. 2d. The *Oreyninae*, of which the subject of our illustration is a member. Here the spinous dorsal is contiguous to the soft, the pectorals comparatively low, the caudal peduncle with a median adipose carina, or fleshy keel, and two others, one above and one below, converging backward. This sub-family includes *oreynus*, *sarda*, and *cybium*, and related forms. 3d. *Thyrsetinae*, in which the spinous dorsal is also long and pectorals comparatively low, but the caudal peduncle is not keeled. This family includes the genera *thyrsetes*, *ruvettus*, etc. 5th. *Gempylinae*, distinguished from the others by the very long body (the height being less than a tenth of the length), and the