



Annals and Magazine of Natural History

Series 1

ISSN: 0374-5481 (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07>

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To cite this article: Frederick M'Coy M.G.S. N.H.S.D. (1847) XXIII.—Note on the Irish species of Cephaloptera (Pterocephala), *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 19:125, 176-178, DOI: [10.1080/037454809494506](https://doi.org/10.1080/037454809494506)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/037454809494506>



Published online: 05 Jan 2010.



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the outer margin, where its upper boundary is the second discoidal nervule. Below, all the wings pale chocolate, with lavender reflections, traversed by seven transverse lines; the first commencing on the costa of the anterior wings near the base, continued along the precostal and first median nervule of the posterior wings, the second continued across both wings to the origin of the second median nervule of the posterior wings, the third short, just crossing the cell a little beyond the middle, the fourth beyond the cell, continued nearly to the anal angle, the fifth more oblique, only reaching the first median nervule of the posterior wings, the sixth arising near the apex, meeting the fourth at its termination, the seventh submarginal, common. Posterior wings slightly produced into a short, round tail or palette at the anal angle, having besides the markings already described two ocelli composed of an oval black ring with a white pupil, the larger one near the costa between the first and second subcostal nervule, the second between the first and second submedian nervule at the point of junction of the fourth and sixth strigæ, the anal palette with two black dots edged with white. Cilia all white.

Head, thorax, and abdomen brown.

Female paler, with the band of the anterior wings much narrower, not occupying any part of the cell, fulvous, marked near the outer margin with a brown waved striga.

In the cabinet of the British Museum, &c.

Much resembling in form *Amathusia Phidippus*, but known at once by the blue band above and different markings of the under surface. The blue band of the anterior wings gives it a considerable resemblance to *Zeuxidia Luxeri* of Hübner, but it wants the blue on the posterior wings, and is totally different below.

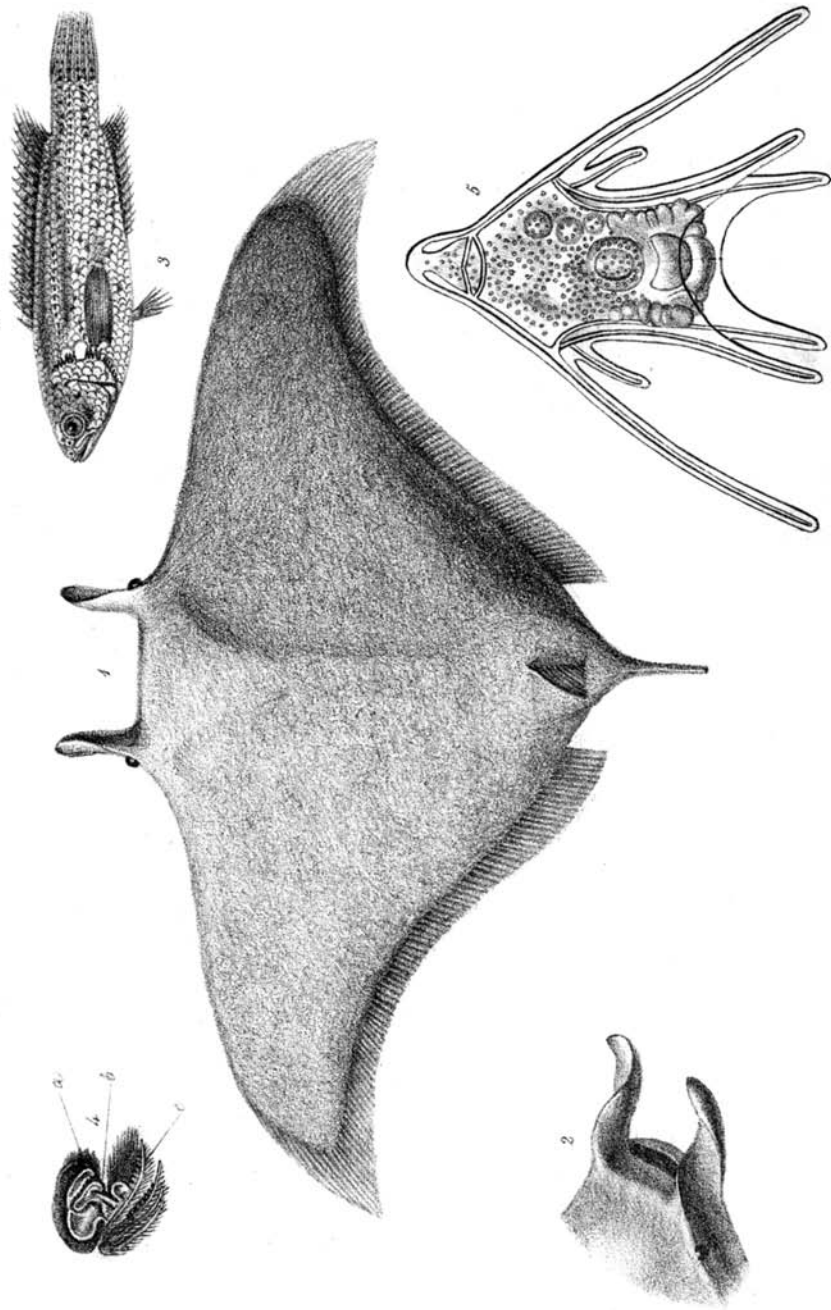
XXIII.—*Note on the Irish species of Cephaloptera (Pterocephala).*

By FREDERICK M'COY, M.G.S. & N.H.S.D. &c.

[With a Plate.]

ON looking over some memoranda lately, I found the following notes and drawing, Pl. XI., made some years ago, of the specimen of *Cephaloptera*, originally noticed by Mr. Thompson of Belfast, in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society, and which may be interesting to naturalists, as the specimen is still, so far as I know, not only unique as Irish, but even the genus to which it belongs has not been observed before or since in the British seas; and further, the specimen seems to be erroneously referred to in most works on British zoology.

I wish here to acknowledge the liberality with which Dr.



Scouler, Lecturer on Geology and Keeper of the Museum to the above Society, has always permitted me to examine and describe any objects which interested me in the Museum under his care; and he it was, I believe, who first drew Mr. Thompson's attention to this most interesting addition to the British fauna, and noted its genus.

The specimen in question was first publicly noticed by Mr. Thompson in a communication to the Zoological Society of London (Proc. June 5, 1835), and the particulars which he gives of its capture on the Irish coast are all I know on that point, having failed in my inquiries for any information in addition to that which has been published on his authority. That gentleman however neither described nor figured the specimen, merely noticing its general resemblance to the figure given by Risso of the *Cephaloptera Giorna*; subsequent writers seem to have in some manner mistaken the passage, as they make the reference to that species decisive, which, as I have stated, was not the case in the original notice.

I might here suggest, that according to the rule of priority, Dumeril's name *Cephaloptera* should not be retained for this genus, having been previously used by Geoffroy St. Hilaire for a genus of *Coracine*, formed for the reception of that remarkable bird the *Coracina cephaloptera* of Vieillot; it has been proposed to alter the name of the genus of Fish to *Pterocephala*, which it would be well to adopt.

On examining this very interesting specimen, I found that although obviously a *Pterocephala*, yet it presented most important differences from the *C. Giorna*, both in outline, proportions, shape of the fins, and form of the wing-like appendages to the head; neither does it agree with any of the European or American species described by modern writers, so far as I have seen, but seems referable to that described many years ago, from the coast of Tuscany, by Dr. Fabroni of Florence, and figured by Lacépède under the name of *Raja Fabroniana* in honour of its discoverer. This species seems to have been lost, Cuvier and most other ichthyologists throwing a doubt on its existence, and supposing the figure referred to, to represent a mutilated example of the common *C. Giorna*; it is therefore doubly interesting to rediscover it in our own seas, as an addition to the fauna and as replacing an old species in the systems. The *P. Fabroniana* differs from the *P. Giorna* in the length of the body (exclusive of the whip-like tail) being nearly one-half of the width from tip to tip of the pectoral fins, while the length is not more than one-third of the width in the latter species. Besides this great proportional width of the *P. Giorna*, its pectorals are much narrower than in the present fish, and nearly straight, while in the *P. Fabroniana* they are

broadly falcate, recurved, and without any fin-like margin on the anterior edge. The appendage to the head forms a semicylindrical process in the *P. Giorna*, but forms two horn-like fins, one on each side of the head, in the Irish fish and in Fabroni's Mediterranean one; those are represented in the figure sent to Lacepède and engraved in his work, with I think rather too many turns, being twisted into regular conical horns; the corresponding parts in the specimen under consideration show also a strong tendency to roll spirally, but not amounting to more than I have represented in the sketch; this is however a matter easily exaggerated by an artist, or the difference of age and sex would very probably make a difference in the length and consequent inrollment of those parts.

Dr. Fabroni's species is defined as a "falciformly dilated brown ray, whitish beneath," &c.; this colouring agrees exactly with our specimen, but differs entirely from that of the *P. Giorna*: another point of agreement between the two former specimens is the extreme slenderness of the tail, it not being more than half the thickness of that of the *P. Giorna*; the tail in both specimens of the *P. Fabroniana* is defective as to all that portion from the barbed spine to the tip, so that the exact position or form of the spine is unknown. The figure given by Lacepède is of the under-side only; it agrees however very well in the general form and proportions, broad, recurved pectoral fins, frontal processes, and the small size of the tail.

There is a very strong resemblance also between the present fish and the Indian *Cephaloptera Kuhlîi* (Valenc.) as figured by Müller and Henle in their 'Systematische Beschreibung der Plagiostomen,' &c., as may be perceived by comparing the sketch I have given with their drawing, particularly in the form of the lateral processes of the head and the general proportions of the body; but our specimen and Dr. Fabroni's seem to differ from that species in the small size of the head and some minor points, in addition to the difference of habitat.

Length (of the Irish specimen) from the front to the dorsal fin 1 foot 8 inches; entire width 3 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; height of dorsal fin $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, length the same; from one eye to the other 8 inches.

Cambridge, 12th January 1847.