

204 *Systematic Position of Macristium chavesi.*

30. 120 mm.	Onon R.	Godeffroy Mus.
31-32. 100-105 mm.	Inland Sea of Japan.	R. Gordon Smith, [Esq.]
33-42. 80-100 mm	Gifu, Mino Prov., Japan.	Prof. Mitsukuri.

Ammocætes branchialis, Linn.

Under this name may be placed a number of larvæ, most of which probably pertain to *Lampetra*, but some to other Petromyzonids.

1.	Tweed.	
2.	Eaton.	Leach Coll.
3-6.	R. Enz, Württemberg.	Stuttgart Coll.
7.	R. Blau, "	"
8-17.	Bavaria.	Dr. Gemminger.
18-19.	Sardinia.	Prof. Bonelli.
20-21.	L. Garda.	Dr. Werner.
22-31.	L. Biwa, Japan.	Mr. Sugubi.
32-41.	British Columbia.	Boundary Commission.

XIX.—*On the Systematic Position of Macristium chavesi.*
By C. TATE REGAN, M.A.

IN 1903 (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (7) xii. p. 345) I described a remarkable fish from the Azores, to which I gave the name *Macristium chavesi*. Recently, when working at the osteology and classification of the Iniomi, it seemed to me desirable to re-examine this fish; I accordingly wrote to Major F. A. Chaves, who has kindly sent me the specimen.

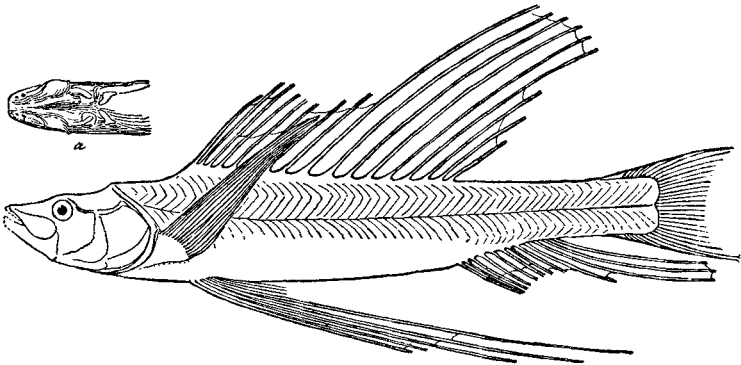
The type of *Macristium chavesi* measures 110 mm. to the base of the caudal fin; it has been a good deal damaged, and in the absence of precise information I should judge that it may have been washed ashore. The snout and the end of the lower jaw are injured and the præmaxillaries have been lost; one of the pectoral fins is complete, but none of the other fins has even a single ray entire.

Originally I believed that *Macristium* was related to *Bathysaurus*, Günth., which it resembles in the position of the fins and the number of rays. I am now of the opinion that this resemblance is misleading, for I think that in all probability the præmaxillaries would not exclude the maxillaries from the gape. In any case, *Macristium* must be made the type of a distinct family, Macristiuidæ, probably related to the Alepocephalidæ.

Before returning the fish to the Ponta Delgada Museum it seems to me best to make a figure of it and to reinforce my original description.

The body is elongate, moderately compressed, naked; the

abdomen seems to be very distensible and the vent is situated just in front of the anal fin. The myotomes number about 62. The caudal fin has 19 principal rays and there are 18 rays in the dorsal fin, 12 in the anal, 16 in the pectoral, and 8 in the pelvic; all the rays of the dorsal, anal, and pelvic fins appear to be very elongate and unbranched, but some of them may have been branched distally; the pelvic fins are rather widely separated and are inserted just behind the pectorals. The gill-membranes are free from the isthmus and the branchiostegals are rather long, slender, and curved,



Macristium chavesi (slightly reduced). *a*, head from above.

about 8 in number on each side; there are 4 gills and no pseudobranchiæ. Small acutely pointed teeth are present in the lower jaw and on the vomer, palatines, and tongue; the maxillary is broad, rounded posteriorly, without supra-maxillary. There are two nostrils on each side which are superior rather than lateral in position and lie near the end of the snout in front of the anterior end of what appears to be an elongate supraorbital bone; the head is flattish above and the frontals are slightly raised above each eye. The post-temporals approach each other rather closely in the occipital region.

XX.—*New Asiatic Muridæ*. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Epimys whiteheadi perlutus, subsp. n.

Essential characters of true *whiteheadi*, but with larger skull and greyish belly.