

ECHENEIS REMORA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Caput supra planum, marginatum, transverse
sulcato-serratum.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ECHENEIS cauda bifurca, striis capitis octo-
decim.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 447.

Thoracici.

ECHENEIS cauda bifurca.

Gronov. zooph. p. 75.

REMORA.

Rondel. Willughb. &c.

Insignit hoc genus capitis area quasi plana et ova-
ta, dissepimentis plurimis transversim divisa, qua a
parte adjungere se solet Echeneis imo aut lateribus
navium, nec non ipsis etiam piscibus majoribus.
Auxit hoc in miraculum veterum superstitio, credi-
tumque olim est posse illam navim pleno cursu vo-
lantem de subito impedire. Huic absurdissimæ opi-
nioni ansam dedisse facile crediderim parvulam quan-
dam primævarum gentium scapham plurimis hisce
piscibus

piscibus simul adhærentibus paulisper remoratam et in latus deflexam ; et rumorem in vulgus sparsum a veris initiis crevisse tandem, ut fieri plerumque solet, in ridiculas fabulas ; quasi ingenita esset ipsi pisci naturalis quædam vis quæ navigiis ad libitum moræ posset esse et impedimento.

Innascitur Echeneis Remora in mari Mediterraneo et Atlantico, longa, ut plurimum, quindecim uncias.

THE
FORK-TAILED REMORA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Head flattened at the top into an oval shield marked by numerous transverse divisions.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

REMORA with forked tail and about eighteen divisions on the shield.

The REMORA or Pilot-Fish,

The Sucking-Fish.

This highly singular genus is at once distinguished by the uncommon appearance of the head, which is formed on the upper part into a flat, oval space, divided by numerous transverse dissepiments: by this part the animal adheres at pleasure either to the bottom or sides of vessels, or even to several of the larger fishes themselves. The popular superstition of the ancients magnified this into a kind of miraculous power in the animal, which was supposed to be able to stop a ship in full sail by adhering to it. This idea, absurd as it is, might yet have originated in truth; nor can it be thought improbable that
some

2M.



some small canoe, in the earlier ages of mankind, might in some degree have been impeded in its progress, or made to incline unequally by several of these fishes adhering to one side; and the tale, once related, might have gradually grown into the exaggerated power afterwards ascribed to the animal. The usual length of this fish is about fifteen inches: it is a native of the Mediterranean and Atlantic seas.



Shaw, George. 1802. "The Fork-Tailed Remora, *Echeneis remora* [Pl. 511]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 13(CLII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310957>.

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