

description of two supposed undescribed species of Fishes. By W. D. WEBSTER, Esq. Surgeon of H. M. Ship Chanticleer, Corresponding Member of the South African Institution.

[Read at the South African Institution.]

My dear sir,—Should you think the accompanying short descriptions of two fishes, which I am inclined to consider as undescribed species, will be of interest to the Members of the SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTION, you are at liberty to make what use of them you please. The sucker fish was found adhering to a line which had been let down into the sea, in the operation of ascertaining the rate and direction of a current in the variables, in latitude 3° North; and the sun fish was killed in Table Bay.—Yours, truly,

To Dr. SMITH, ———.

W. D. WEBSTER.

ECHENEIS TRIAINURUS.

E. lilius, striis capitis septem, cauda trifurcata.

Colour a fine slate blue, disk on head with seven laminæ; lower jaw considerably longer than the upper; pectoral fins small, and a quarter of an inch in length; ventrals half an inch; anal fin extends from the vent to the tail, and the dorsal is of equal length, and directly over it. The tail is singularly trifurcated, the central portion is three-tenths of an inch in length, and extends considerably beyond either the upper or lower segments.

CEPHALUS BARROWII.

C. obscuro-cinereus, cutis scabra, cauda minuta et tripartita pinna dorsalis et analis conicæ, antrorsum leviter curvatæ.

Colour dull gray, skin rough and scabrous; pectoral fins, fawn shaped, seven inches long and four and a half broad; dorsal and anal fins opposite to each other, and precisely similar as to shape, size, and structure; they are each two feet one inch long, eight inches wide at the base, and terminated in a point, presenting the figure of a cone slightly curved forwards. The tail is very small, nearly continuous with the outline of the body, and composed of three equal curvilinear or scolloped portions, each nearly two inches long. Length seven feet five inches, breadth three feet nine inches, and weight presumed from the number of men required to drag it, eight hundred weight. The subcutaneous stratum was from two to three inches in thickness, of a delicate white colour, and of a firm solid, somewhat elastic structure, resembling soft cartilage or gristle. Such seems admirably adapted for the resisting of wounds or injuries from the more active and predaceous fishes. In itself it must be, comparatively speaking, a harmless species, of little power of motion, and, from the smallness of its mouth, of not a very

ravenous nature. The stomach is a large membranous bag, and contained nothing except some slimy shreds. The intestines were fourteen feet in length, of equal calibre throughout, and with very strong thick coats. The eyes are very large, each three inches and two tenths in diameter, and considerably exceeding that of the same organs in a young whale of twenty-three feet in length. The sockets of the eyes, or orbits, were padded with a cellular substance, containing a vast quantity of aqueous fluid, and each lens was an inch in diameter.
