though I am not so sure of the last being in the tropics. It is curious to remark also that species of certain plants which have become abundant weeds in Great Britain are spreading to an equal extent in some parts of this continent. Thus *Galensoga parviflora* is a South American Composite weed which has of late years become a very wide-spreading nuisance in the gardens around London. It is likewise very abundant in all gardens about Port Jackson and Brisbane. This weed is a species of *Amaranthus*, one of the most common and disagreeably abundant garden weeds of New South Wales.

I have not alluded to *Ulex europeus* or common furze, which has spread so rapidly and so disagreeably in Tasmania. It is not known as a weed in Australia.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF FISHES (*TRACHICHTHYS MACLEAYI*, AND *MENDOSOMA ALLPORTI*), CAUGHT IN THE ESTUARY OF THE DERWENT.

By R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.

[*Read 11th October*, 1880.]

Mendosoma, Gay.

One dorsal fin deeply notched, with twenty-two spines (23); the anal fin of moderate length, the caudal forked; the simple pectoral rays feeble, not exceeding the margin of the fin. Small teeth in the upper jaw only; none in the lower, or on the palate. Scales of moderate size; cheeks scaly. Six branchiostegals.

Mendosoma, Allporti. New sp.

B 6, D $23\frac{1}{25}$, A $\frac{3}{18}$, P 16, V $\frac{1}{5}$, L. lat. 76, L. tr. $\frac{5}{16}$. Body elliptical, compressed. Head small, pointed. Cheeks scaly. Height of body is $3\frac{1}{4}$ in the total length, the length of the

head 5 times. Dorsal fin notched; the sixth, seventh, and eighth are the longest, higher than the longest, of soft dorsal, and about one-fourth the depth of body. The first soft dorsal is situated in a line vertically drawn through the anus; the third anal spine longer than the thickish second, and about half the length of the longest dorsal spines. Pectoral rays more or less covered with linear oblong scales; simple rays of pectoral 5 feeble, all shorter than the immediately superior branched rays. Body scales moderately large anteriorly, decreasing in size towards tail. Caudal forked. Uniformly blackish grey, with a deeper shade along the back. Named in honour of the memory of the late Morton Allport, Esq.

This interesting fish was obtained by Mr. Webb from one of the Derwent fishermen. Mr. Webb states that he has occasionally caught the fish while "trumpeter" fishing, at certain seasons of the year, towards the mouth of the estuary of the Derwent. It is known to fishermen as "The Real Bastard Trumpeter," and vies with the latter in delicacy of flavour. The only fish allied to this species seems to be *M. lineatum*, Gay, from the coast of Chili. It is interesting to know that the only other species of the genus is to be found on the coast of Tasmania. I have included the Tasmanian species within the genus *Mendosoma*, of Gay, notwithstanding that the spinous dorsal has one more spine than the first described species. It is true that Dr. Gunther considers the number of dorsal spines to be of generic value, and within certain limits no doubt this is correct, but the allied genera, *Latris Chilodactylus* and *Nemadactylus*, show within a certain limit a wonderful variability in the number of dorsal spines in individuals of undoubtedly the same species. In such cases it would be absurd to base the generic standard too rigidly upon a character so variable.

The total length	$15\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Length of head	$3\frac{1}{8}$ „
Length of snout	$1\frac{1}{8}$ „
Diameter of eye (horizontal)	$\frac{6}{8}$ „
Greatest depth of body	$4\frac{6}{8}$ „
Least depth at tail peduncle	$1\frac{1}{8}$ „
Largest cycloid scale near shoulder ...	$\frac{1}{4}$x$\frac{1}{4}$ „
Longest pectoral ray	$2\frac{1}{2}$ „
Length first dorsal spine	$\frac{3}{8}$ „
„ of sixth, seventh, and eighth do.	$1\frac{2}{8}$ „
„ of twenty-third do.	$\frac{3}{8}$ „

Length of first soft ray dorsal ...	$1\frac{2}{8}$ inches
„ of last do.	$\frac{1}{8}$ „
„ of first anal spine	$\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ of second do.	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
„ of third do.	$\frac{3}{4}$ „
„ of first soft ray (anal)... ...	$1\frac{2}{8}$ „
„ of last do.	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
Longest ventral ray	$1\frac{3}{4}$ „
Distance between occiput and first ray of dorsal	26 mil.
Distance between last ray of dorsal and caudal	21 mil.

Genus Trachichthys, Shaw.

Muzzle very short, rounded, not protruding; cleft of the mouth oblique; chin prominent; eye large. Exceedingly fine villiform teeth in both jaws, on the vomer, and on the palatine bones; eight branchiostegals. A strong spine on the scapular bone, and at the angle of the præoperculum, a small one on the operculum; suborbital arch with radiating ridges. Scales ctenoid rather small; abdomen serrated. One dorsal fin; ventral with six rays; caudal forked. Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand.

Trachichthys Macleayi. New sp.

D $\frac{5}{13}$, A $\frac{3}{10}$, V 8. Scales minutely irregularly spiniferous; a series forming the pierced scales of lateral line (about fifty), larger, and armed with one or two visibly prominent transparent spines. Height of body is $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. the total length; the length of the head nearly three times Cleft of mouth wide almost vertical. The serrated ventral keel composed of 13 prominent spiniferous scutes. Upper and lower margins of caudal peduncle armed respectively with 8 and 7 strong adpressed translucent spines. Colour of a uniform bright golden yellow when fresh. Mouth of the estuary of the Derwent. Rare. Named in honour of W. Macleay, Esq., F.L.S., Sydney, to whom Australian naturalists are indebted for much of their knowledge of the Australian fishes.

The total length	$9\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Length of body	$7\frac{1}{2}$ „
„ of head	$3\frac{1}{2}$ „
Greatest depth of body	$4\frac{1}{8}$ „
Least depth at caudal peduncle ...	$\frac{7}{8}$ „

Length of first dorsal spine	5	mil.
„ fifth „	17	„
„ first dorsal soft ray ...	30	„
„ last do.	15	„
„ first anal spine	2	„
„ second do.	6	„
„ third do.	19	„
„ first anal soft ray	15	„
„ last do.	22	„
Breadth eye	21	„
Length snout	11	„
Length of series of abdominal scutes	30	„
Breadth of largest abdominal scute ...	7	„
Depth of do.	7	„
Longest of marginal caudal spines ...	11	„