

MISCELLANEA

FISH.

Note on a supposed new Indian genus.

Jordan has recently created a new genus *Raimas*¹ with *Cyprinus bola* Hamilton, as its type to take the place of *Bola*, Günther.² He thinks *Bola* to be "preoccupied by Hamilton." It does not, however, appear that Hamilton Buchanan ever used the name *Bola* (or *Bhola*) in a generic sense. He mentions *Bola* (deriving the name, as he says, from the local name of a fish called in Bengal *Bhola*) only in two places,³ and in both he uses it as a specific name under his subgenus *Barilius*,⁴ which is generally recognised as a valid genus. Günther founded the genus *Bola* with Hamilton Buchanan's *Cyprinus goha* as its type, and borrowed the generic name from the specific appellation *C. bola*, Hamilton. In the genus *Bola*, Günther, there are two distinct species, viz. *B. bola* (H.B.) and *B. goha* (H.B.), though both Günther and Day⁵ regarded them as synonymous. The *Cyprinus bola* of Hamilton Buchanan was from "the Brahmaputra," it grows to "five or six inches in length" and "is of little value," whereas Hamilton's *Cyprinus goha* is a "trout" to English residents and was obtained "from the Kosi, Yamuna, and Son rivers; grows to about the size of a herring and is fine-flavoured delicate fish." Furthermore, the *Bhola* of Bengal is not the *Rajamas* of the Assamese, from which local name, by the way, Jordan christens his newly-proposed genus. M'Clelland⁶ and Cuvier and Valenciennes⁷ recognised the two species as distinct. There are two coloured figures of natural size in the volume of MS Drawings by Hamilton Buchanan in the library of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, representing these two species. The name *C. Goha* appears in Hamilton Buchanan's own handwriting on the back of Plate cxxvi, while the name *Cyprinus Bhola* in the same handwriting is written on the back of Plate cxxxi, the latter much the smaller figure of the two. In absence of the types, these drawings have to be adopted as the *protographs* of these two species, and as the genus *Bola*, Günther, is not preoccupied, the names of the species should be respectively: *Bola goha* (H.B.) and *Bola bola* (H.B.).

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¹ Jordan, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia*, LXX, p. 344.

² Günther, *Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus.*, VII, p. 263.

³ Hamilton Buchanan, *Acc. Fish. Ganges*, pp. 275 and 385.

⁴ " " " " " " pp. 266 and 384.

⁵ Day, *Fish. India*, p. 594.

⁶ M'Clelland, *Asiat. Research.*, XIX, pp. 297 and 298, pl. xlvii, fig. 1, and pl. xlviii, fig. 5B.

⁷ Cuvier and Valenciennes, *Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, XVI, pp. 423 and 424.