

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *HIPPOCAMPUS* FROM THE ANDAMANS.

By GEORG DUNCKER (*Hamburg*).

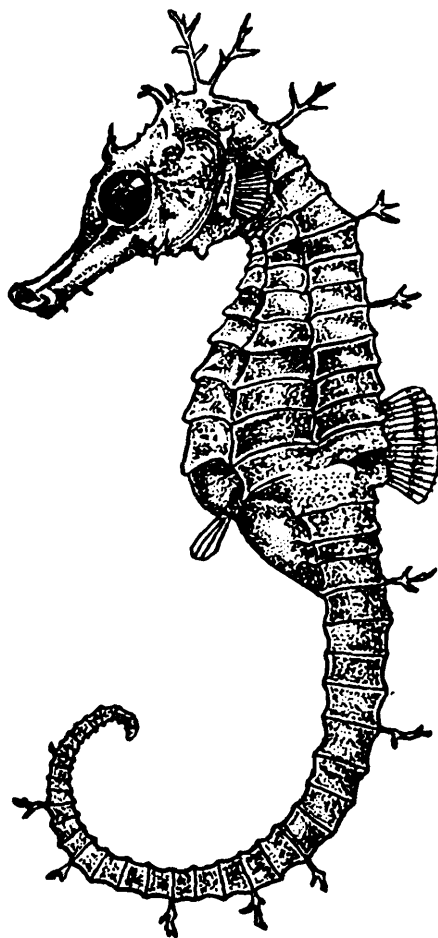
Hippocampus horai, n. sp.

Ann. 11+36, Ann. subd. 2+1, D. 17, A. 4, P. 16, B. i. 7

Rostrum very nearly as long as rest of head-length from the anterior margin of orbit to posterior margin of opercle. Total length 123 mm.

Rings slightly differentiated (subequal). Spines on body-edges little developed, blunt, smooth.

Body densely covered with cutaneous appendices. Those on the supraorbital, frontal, coronal, as well as on the dorsal spines of the 1st, 4th, 7th trunk and the 4th, 8th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 21st and 24th tail rings, and further on the initial (lateral) spine of the upper tail-edge on the 11th trunk-ring are very long and dendritically ramified. Ramified appendices on the 4th and 7th spine of the middle lateral trunk-edge. Dorsal surface of trunk and anterior two-thirds of tail with numerous rather long but not ramified tentacles, becoming fewer and smaller behind; similar but shorter ones on the trunk between middle and lower lateral edges and between the latter and the abdominal edge, especially on the ring-borders. The dorsoventral lips of the pores of the lateral line are prominent, somewhat rough and wart-like papillæ on the trunk, short, smooth, simple tentacles on the tail. Ventral surface of the rostrum with 3 pairs of small somewhat ramified barbels, the anterior pair below the angles of the mouth, the posterior one just in front of the nares. Head, opercles and the entire body strewn with small cutaneous warts.



Hippocampus horai, n. sp.

Unicoloured light brown. Dorsal fin weakly pigmented on basal region, with a dark infra-marginal band.

Near *H. kuda* Bleek., but smaller and distinct by the cutaneous appendices. A single male with empty breeding-pouch, collected in the Andamans by Mr. G. H. Booley (*Ind. Mus. No. 11836*).

[Dr. Georg Duncker has very kindly worked out our entire collection of *Hippocampus* and has found in it the following species :—

1. *Hippocampus trimaculatus* Leach.
2. *Hippocampus hystrix* Kaup.
3. *Hippocampus kuda* Bleek.
4. *Hippocampus horai*, sp. nov.
5. *Hippocampus brachyrhynchus* Dunck.
6. *Hippocampus punctulatus* Guichen.

Regarding the last species Dr. Duncker observes that “There is one *Hippocampus* (7895, ♀), given by Dr. Stoliczka, which looks exactly like the American (Atlantic) *H. punctulatus* Guichen. Since its locality seems to be uncertain, I have ventured to determine as such.” So far as we are aware Dr. Stoliczka made no collections in the Atlantic Ocean though he collected over a wide area of the Indo-Pacific Region. The specimen No. 7895 is entered in our register without any mention of the locality but there is very little doubt that Stoliczka must have obtained it from the Indo-Pacific Region. If Dr. Duncker’s determination of this specimen is correct, it shows that both Günther¹ and Day² were probably right when they grouped both Atlantic and Indian species in the synonymy of *Hippocampus guttulatus*.

Besides the species enumerated above there are 5 specimens which have been sent back to us undetermined. Of these one has been found by Duncker to be badly preserved for identification, while among the remaining specimens he considers there are representatives of two different species. *Sunder Lal Hora.*]

Günther, *Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus.* VIII, p. 202 (1870).

² Day, *Fishes of India*, p. 682, pl. clxxiv, fig. 6 (1878).