

from Tenasserim. The caudal fin is bifurcate, the upper lobe is considerably longer than the lower, which is due to "the prolongation of three rays of the upper half of the fin." If properly stretched, the fin is not lanceolate as described by Günther and later figured by Vinciguerra. I am convinced that this species is also identical with McClelland's *O. longicaudata*.

No specimen of *O. burmanica* Day is now available for examination either in the collection of the Indian Museum or in that of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). As judged from its figure, it appears to represent a somewhat stouter fish. The caudal fin is shown as asymmetrically lanceolate (probably it is forked with some filiform rays in the upper lobe). *O. horae* is known from a single specimen in which the body is fairly stout and the upper lobe of the caudal fin is not very much longer than the lower.

It is thus clear that though six species have hitherto been described in this genus, only one species—*O. longicaudata* (= *O. elongata* = *O. kempfi*)—is known from a large number of specimens collected at the base of the Darjeeling Himalayas, in Assam and Tenasserim. Until further material becomes available *O. burmanica* from the Pegu Yomas and *O. horae* from the Myitkyina District, Upper Burma, have to be regarded as distinct species, though it seems likely that they may also prove to be synonymous with *longicaudata*, as they fall within its range of geographical distribution. *O. laticeps*, as shown above, is a species of *Amblyceps*.

IV ON THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAME *Wallago* BLEEKER.

Under the vernacular name *Wallago*, Russell¹ described and figured a species of "Silurus" from Vizagapatam on the Coromandel Coast, but the fish had already been christened as *Silurus attu* by Bloch and Schneider.² Without assigning any reason Bleeker³ used *Wallago* in the generic sense while describing a new species—*W. dinema*—from Borneo. Between 1851 and 1858, Bleeker⁴ employed this generic denomination, still without any definition, for as many as eleven other Silurid fishes from India, Burma and the Malay Archipelago. There seems no doubt that the name had hitherto been used in a loose sense for in his first comprehensive revision of the Siluroid fishes Bleeker⁵ restricted its use to two species—*W. russellii* Bleeker (= *W. attu* Bl. & Schn.) and *W. leerii* Bleeker—and proposed a new genus *Belodontichthys* for his *Wallago dinema*. Four years later in his *Atlas Ichthyologique*, he⁶ fixed the limits of these genera more precisely by indicating their genotypes. All later workers have accepted the genus *Wallago* as ultimately restricted by Bleeker, and according to Weber and de Beaufort⁷ the genus should date only from 1858 since "this is the first diagnosis of the genus, although the name *Wallago* was used by Bleeker since 1851, but without description."

¹ Russell, *Fish. Vizagapatam*, II, p. 50, pl. clxv (1803).

² Bloch & Schneider, *Syst. Ichth.*, p. 378 (1801).

³ Bleeker, *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Ind.*, II, p. 202 (1851).

⁴ Bleeker, *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Ind.*, II, p. 427 (1851); *ibid.*, V, p. 189 (1853); *ibid.*, V, p. 514 (1853); *Verh. Bat. Gen.*, XXV, pp. 54, 100, 108, 109 (1853).

⁵ Bleeker, *Ichth. Arch. Ind. Prodr.*, I, Siluri, p. 259 (1858).

⁶ Bleeker, *Atl. Ichth.*, II, p. 79 (1862).

⁷ Weber & de Beaufort, *Fish. Indo-Austral. Archipel.*, II, p. 200 (1913).

Jordan in his *Genera of Fishes* (pp. 247, 279) gives *Wallago dinema* Blkr. as the orthotype of *Wallago* and again the same species (*Belodontichthys macrochir* Blkr.=*Wallago dinema* Blkr.) as the orthotype of *Belodontichthys* Blkr. In accordance with the strict interpretation of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature *Wallago* should be used for species now included under *Belodontichthys* and a new generic name proposed for *Silurus attu* and its allies. But in view of the great familiarity of the generic name *Wallago* in its present accepted sense, I am retaining this name for *W attu* and its allies. The matter will, however, be referred in due course to the International Congress of Zoological Nomenclature for inclusion of *Wallago* and *Belodontichthys* among the *nomina conservenda*.

The genus is represented by a single species—*Wallago attu*—in Indian waters.

V FISHES OF THE GENUS *Heteropneustes* MÜLLER.

The genus *Heteropneustes* was established by Müller¹ to accommodate *Silurus fossilis* Bloch² of which he regarded *S. singio* Hamilton³ as a synonym. Though the most important diagnostic character is stated to be the respiratory tubes as described by Taylor⁴ in *S. singio*, Müller indicated that in external features his new genus was intermediate between *Silurus* and *Heterobranchus*. In the same year, Valenciennes⁵ proposed the genus *Saccobranchus* for *Silurus singio* of which he regarded *S. fossilis* Bloch as a synonym. As the name implies, the main character of the genus is the presence of accessory respiratory sacs. Though *Saccobranchus* is a well known generic name among fishes, on grounds of priority, *Heteropneustes* must replace it, as pointed out by Müller⁶ himself I have also looked up the original dates of publication of these genera and support this contention.

Valenciennes placed *Saccobranchus* near *Clarias* and *Heterobranchus* and remarked: "La ressemblance extérieure du crâne des Saccobranches avec les Clarias et les Hétérobranches dépend du développement des mêmes os; ainsi, le crâne est élargi en avant par l'agrandissement des sous-orbitaires; en arrière, par celui des mastoïdiens et des surtemporaux. La proéminence interpariétale fait une saillie sur l'occiput, sans qu'il y ait de casque ou de chevron sur les premiers interépineux. Les dents sont en velours aux mâchoires et sur deux plaques arquées au chevron du vomer. Les rayons branchiostèges sont au nombre de sept; les barbillons de huit. De chaque côté des apophyses supérieures, et au-dessus du corps de vertèbres, existent deux sacs coniques, s'étendant jusqu'aux deux tiers de la longueur du corps, et ouverts en avant par deux orifices pratiqués sur le haut et entre les peignes des branchies." Bleeker⁷ also regarded *Saccobranchus* a close

¹ Müller, *Arch. Anat. Physiol.*, p. 115, 1839 (1840).

² Bloch, *Naturges. Ausländ. Fische*, VIII, p. 46, pl. cclxx, fig. 2 (1794).

³ Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges*, pp. 147, 374, pl. xxxvii, fig. 46 (1822).

⁴ Taylor, *Gleanings in Science*, p. 170 (1830).

⁵ Valenciennes, in Cuvier & Valenciennes' *Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, XV, p. 339 (1840). According to Sherborn [*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (9) XV, p. 600, 1925] volume 15 of *Hist. Nat. Poiss.* was published in November, 1840.

⁶ Müller, *Abh. Kön. Akad. Wiss. Berlin*, p. 244, 1839 (1841).

⁷ Bleeker, *Ned. Tidschr. Dierkunde*, I, pp. 119, 120 (1863).