

ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF FISHES
FROM NORTH BIHAR

By

K. P. SINGH

*Gangetic Plains Regional Station,
Zoological Survey of India, Patna*

INTRODUCTION

A small collection of fishes from North Bihar was lying unidentified in the fish collection of the Zoological Survey of India. The whole collection was studied and a preliminary list of the fishes of the area was prepared.

The first published record on the fishes of this area was by Dalglish (1910) who recorded 33 species from Tirhoot (Bihar). In 1925, D' Abreu gave a list of 60 species of fishes from Saran district. Menon (1950) published the fishes of the river Kosi and recorded 52 species. In 1948 an economic survey of the fisheries of river Kosi was undertaken by the Government of Bihar and important species were listed (Anon., 1948).

In the present study the collection comprises 38 species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author feels grateful to Dr. A. G. K. Menon, Superintending Zoologist, for help. Thanks are also due to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for the facilities provided.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order CLUPEIFORMES

Family CLUPEIDAE

1. ***Gudusia chapra*** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Clupanodon chapra* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 248.

1878. *Clupea chapra*: Day, *Fish India*: 639, pl. 161, fig. 1.

Material.—2 exs., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58.

Order CYPRINIFORMES

Family CYPRINIDAE

2. **Amblypharyngodon mola** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus mola* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 334, 392.

1878. *Amblypharyngodon mola*: Day, *Fish India*: 555, pl. 135, fig. 4.

Material.—3 exs., Purnea; 2 exs., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58.

3. **Aspidoparia morar** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus morar* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 264, 381.

1878. *Aspidoparia morar*: Day, *Fish India*: 585, pl. 146, fig. 4.

Material.—1 ex., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58.

4. **Barilius bendelisis** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1807. *Cyprinus bendelisis* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Journey Mysore*, 3: 345.

1878. *Barilius bendelisis*: Day, *Fish India*: 590, pl. 148, fig. 7-9.

Material.—5 exs., Biratnagar, 25.xi.48.

5. **Barilius barna** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus barna* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 268, 384.

1878. *Barilius barna*: Day, *Fish India*: 592, pl. 148, fig. 1-2.

Material.—4 exs., Champaran, Gandak river at Tribeni.

6. **Chela laubuca** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus laubuca* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 260, 280.

1878. *Perilampus laubuca*: Day, *Fish India*: 598, pl. 151, fig. 5.

1945. *Chela laubuca*, Smith, *Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 188: 81-82.

Material.—1 ex., Saran dist., Jharai river near Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47.

7. **Danio devario** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus devario* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 341, 393.

1878. *Danio devario*: Day, *Fish India*: 595, pl. 150, fig. 4.

Material.—5 exs., Saran dist., Siripur, Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47

8. **Cirrhinus reba** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus reba* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 289, 386.

1878. *Cirrhina reba*: Day, *Fish India*: 549, pl. 130, fig. 3.

Material.—5 exs., Darbhanga dist., Kamla river near Jainagar, 12.i.48; 2 exs., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58.

9. **Crossocheilus latius** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus latius* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 345, 393.

1878. *Cirrhina latia* Day, *Fish India*: 548, pl. 130, fig. 4.

Material.—4 exs., Nirmali, Kosi Survey, *K. K. Tiwari Coll.*, 27.xi.47

10. **Labeo rohita** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus rohita* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 301, 338.

1878. *Labeo rohita*: Day, *Fish India*: 538, pl. 127, fig. 4.

Material.—2 exs., Patna State Survey.

11. **Labeo dyocheilus** (McClelland)

1839. *Cyprinus dyocheilus* McClelland, *Indian Cyp.*: 26, 330.

1878. *Labeo dyocheilus*: Day, *Fish India*: 540, pl. 130, fig. 1.

Material.—11 exs., Champaran dist., great Gandak near Tribeni.

12. **Labeo gonius** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus gonius* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 292, 387.

1878. *Labeo gonius*: Day, *Fish India*: 537, pl. 127, fig. 1.

Material.—2 exs., Purnea, 20.iii.1871.

13. **Oxygaster bacaila** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus bacaila* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 235.

1878. *Chela bacaila*: Day, *Fish India*: 603, pl. 152, fig. 5.

Material.—1 ex., Purnea, 20.iii.1871; 4 exs., Nirmali, *K. K. Tiwari Coll.*, 27.xi.47; 1 ex., Darbhanga dist., Kamla river, Jainagar.

14. **Puntius sophore** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus sophore* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 310, 389.

1878. *Barbus sophore*: Day, *Fish India*: 566, pl. 143, fig. 4.

Material.—3 exs., Darbhanga; 3 exs. Saran dist., Siripur. Jharai River, *M. M. Mackenzie Coll.*, Oct.-Nov., 1910; 3 exs., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58.

Remarks.—In a few examples a dark spot at the base of dorsal. Dorsal 2/7 and Lateral line scale 25.

15. **Puntius sarana** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus sarana* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 319, 390.

1878. *Barbus sarana*: Day, *Fish India*: 560, pl. 136, fig. 2.

Material.—1 ex.; 2 exs., Kosi Survey, Nirmali, K. K. Tiwari Coll., 27.xi.47; 1 ex., Saran dist., Siripur, Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47.

16. **Puntius phutunio** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus phutunio* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 319, 390.

1878. *Barbus phutunio*: Day, *Fish India*: 578, pl. 145, fig. 4.

Material.—13 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Gidaha Ghat, 30.x.47; 11 exs., Siripur, Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47.

Remarks.—Bands present on body. Dorsal $2\frac{1}{4}$, anal $1\frac{1}{6}$ and lateral lines scales 21.

17. **Puntius ticto** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus ticto* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 314, 389.

1878. *Barbus ticto*: Day, *Fish India*: 576, pl. 144, fig. 7.

Material.—1 ex., Saran Dist., Jharai river, 30.x.47.

18. **Puntius chola** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus chola* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 312, 389.

1878. *Barbus chola*: Day, *Fish India*: 572, pl. 142, fig. 6.

Material.—4 exs., Purnea, 20.iii.1871.

19. **Puntius gelius** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus gelius* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 320, 390.

1878. *Barbus gelius*: Day, *Fish India*: 577, pl. 145, fig. 3.

Material.—2 exs., Saran Dist., Siripur, Jharai river, Bathwonia ghat, 30.x.47.

Family PSILORHYNCHIDAE

20. **Psilorhynchus sucatio** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cyprinus sucatio* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 347, 393.

1878. *Homaloptera bilineata*: Day, *Fish India*: 526, pl. 121, fig. 8.

Material.—1 ex., Kairna river, Kosi Dam.

Family COBITIDAE

21 **Lepidocephalichthys guntea** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cobitis guntea* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 353, 394.

1878. *Lepidocephalichthys guntea*: Day, *Fish India*: 609, pl. 155, fig. 4.

Material.—5 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwania Ghat, 29.x.47; 12 exs., Mazaffarpur dist., Sitamarhi, Lakhandai river, 11.i.48; 10 exs., Darbhanga, Bagmati river, 5.i.48.

22. **Noemacheilus botia** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Cobitis botia* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 350, 394.

1878. *Noemacheilus botia*: Day, *Fish India*: 614, pl. 156, fig. 5.

Material.—2 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47

Family BAGRIDAE

23. **Batasio tengara** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1828. *Pimelodus tengara* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 176, 377.

1878. *Gagata tengara*: Day, *Fish India*: 493.

Material.—1 ex., Nirmali, K. K. Tiwari, Coll., 27.xi.47.

Remarks.—This solitary specimen has got larger maxillary barbels than the usual specimens.

24. **Mystus vittatus** (Bloch)

1797. *Silurus vittatus* Bloch, *Ichth.*, pl. 371, fig. 2.

1878. *Macrones vittatus*: Day, *Fish India*: 448, pl. 98, fig. 3.

Material.—1 ex., Raxaul, Kewal Singh Coll., 30.iii.58.

25. **Mystus bleekeri** (Day)

1877. *Macrones bleekeri* Day, *Fish India*: 451, pl. 101, fig. 1.

Material.—3 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47

26. **Mystus cavasius** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Pimelodus cavasius* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 203, 379.

1878. *Macrones cavasius*: Day, *Fish India*: 447, pl. 100, fig. 1.

Material.—2 exs., Darbhanga, Kamla river, 12.1.48; 4 exs., Champaran dist., Narayani Gandak, 20.x.48.

27 **Mystus tengara** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Pimelodus tengara* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 183, 377.

1877. *Macrones tengara*: Day, *Fish India*: 447, pl. 101, fig. 5.

Material.—7 exs., Darbhanga dist., Jainagar, Kamla river, 12.i.48; 1 ex., Champaran dist., Raxaul.

28. **Gagata cenia** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Pimelodus cenia* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 174, 376.

1877. *Gagata cenia*: Day, *Fish India*: 492, pl. 115, fig. 4.

Material.—2 exs., Raxaul, *Kewal Singh Coll.*, 30.iii.58; 1 ex., Champaran dist., Gandak at Tribeni.

Order PERCIFORMES

Family AMBASSIDAE

29. **Chanda ranga** Hamilton-Buchanan

1822. *Chanda ranga* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 113, 371.

1877. *Ambassis ranga*: Day, *Fish India*: 51, pl. 15, fig. 6.

Material.—5 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Gidaha Ghat, 30.x.47; 2 exs., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47; 4 exs., Siripur, Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 29.x.47.

Remarks.—The younger examples of the species which measure less than 25 mm. have got elongated dorsal and caudal fins in comparison with the common specimens.

Family NANDIDAE

30. **Nandus nandus** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Coius nandus* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 96.

1877. *Nandus marmoratus*: Day, *Fish India*: 129, pl. 32, fig. 1.

Material.—2 exs., Saran dist., Siripur, Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47; 2 exs., Bhagalpore, *D. D. Mukarjee Coll.*, 16.xii.29.

Family GOBIIDAE

31. **Glossogobius giuris** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Gobius giuris* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 51, 366.

1877. *Gobius giuris*: Day, *Fish India*: 294-95, pl. 67, fig. 1.

Material.—3 exs., Nirmali, K. K. Tiwari Coll., 27.xi.47; 3 exs., Saran dist., Siripur, Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 29.x.47; 1 ex., Raxaul, Kewal Singh Coll., 30.iii.58.

Family OSPHRONEMIDAE

32. **Ctenops nobilis** McClelland

1848. *Ctenops nobilis* McClelland, *Calcutta J. nat. Hist.*, 5: 281.

1877. *Osphromenus nobilis*: Day, *Fish India*: 373, pl. 78, fig. 5.

Material.—1 ex., Champaran dist., Betiah Lake, T Mackissack Coll.

Remarks.—The depth of the body is less than the head length. A complete description is in press (*J Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*).

33. **Colisa fasciata** (Bloch & Schneider)

1801. *Tricogaster fasciatus* Bloch & Schneider, *Ichthyology*: 164, T. 36.

1877. *Tricogaster fasciatus*: Day, *Fish India*: 375, pl. 78, fig. 6.

Material.—6 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47; 3 exs., Champaran dist., Raxaul.

Family MASTACEMBELIDAE

34. **Mastacembelus armatus** (Lacépède)

1800. *Macrogathus armatus* Lacépède, *Hist. Nat. Pois.*, 2: 283.

1956. *Mastacembelus armatus*: Sufi, *Bull. Rafl. Mus.*, Singapore, 27: 134-35, fig. 9.

Material.—3 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47

Remarks.—In 2 specimens caudal is separate from the dorsal and distinctly notched from the anal rays. Total length is 5.3 times of head length.

35. **Mastacembelus pancalus** (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Macrogathus pancalus* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 30, 364.

1956. *Mastacembelus pancalus*: Sufi, *Bull. Rafl. Mus.*, Singapore, 27: 120, fig. 22.

Material.—1 ex. Kamla river at Jainagar, 12.i.48; 1 ex., Saran dist., Gandak river, M. M. Mackenjee Coll., 22.ii.72; 5 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47; 1 ex., Raxaul, 20.iii.58.

36. *Macrognathus aculeatum* (Bloch)

1795. *Ophidium aculeatum* Bloch, *Nat. Aust. Fisch.*, pl. 159, fig. 2.

1956. *Macrognathus aculeatum*: Sufi, *Bull. Raf. Mus.*, Singapore, 27: 101, fig. 7-10.

Material.—1 ex., Raxaul, Kewal Singh Coll., 20.iii.58; 1 exs., Saran dist.; Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47.

Order CHANNIFORMES

Family CHANNIDAE

37 *Channa punctata* (Bloch)

1793. *Ophiocephalus punctatus* Bloch, *Nat. Aust. Fisch.*, 7: 139.

1877. *Ophiocephalus punctatus*: Day, *Fish India*: 367, pl. 75, fig. 1.

Material.—2 exs., Raxaul, Kewal Singh Coll., 20.iii.58.

Family CYPRINODONTIDAE

38. *Aplocheilus panchax* (Hamilton-Buchanan)

1822. *Esox penchax* Hamilton-Buchanan, *Fish Ganges*: 211, 380.

1877. *Haplochilus panchax*: Day, *Fish India*: 523, pl. 121, fig. 3.

Material.—5 exs., Saran dist., Jharai river at Bathwonia Ghat, 30.x.47.

REFERENCES

- DALGLESH, G. 1910. A preliminary list of the fishes of Tirhoot. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 20: 428-34.
- D' ABREU, E. A. 1925. List of fishes obtained in Saran dist., Bihar. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 30: 707-11.
- MENON, A. G. K. 1950. Fishes from the Kosi Himalayas. *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 47: 225-37.
- ANON. 1948. Report of the economic survey of the fisheries of the River Kosi. Government of Bihar: 39 pp.