

**EXTENSION OF RANGE OF DISTRIBUTION OF
ACCROSSOCHEILUS HEXAGONOLEPIS (McCLELLAND)
(PISCES : CYPRINIDAE) FROM MADURAI DISTRICT, TAMIL
NADU - NEW RECORD FOR THE SOUTH INDIA.**

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Accrossocheilus hexagonolepis (McClelland) is so far known only from India (restricted in northern parts only), Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Malaya and Sumatra (Jayaram, 1981). *A. hexagonolepis* was described by McClelland (1839) from Upper Assam and has been subsequently reported from other localities, in Kalimpong Duars and Siliguri Terai by Hora and Gupta (1941), in North Bengal by Shaw and Shebbeare (1937), in Abor Hills, Assam by Chaudhuri (1913), in Naga Hills and Manipur valley by Hora (1921), in Garo Hills, Assam by Hora (1924) and in Arunachal Pradesh by Barman (in Datta and Barman, 1985).

The faunistic survey of the freshwater fishes of Madurai (78°E to 78.5°E Longitude and 9.5°N to 10°N Latitude), Tamil Nadu shows the presence of 13 specimens of *A. hexagonolepis*. A perusal of the existing literature on the fish fauna of Tamil Nadu also indicate that this species has not been earlier represented from Tamil Nadu and other states of the southern India also. The occurrence of *A. hexagonolepis* in Tamil Nadu establishes the continuity of the geographical distribution of this species, which extends from the Northern India to the Southern India.

A brief description of this species along with other relevant information is provided in this note.

***Accrossocheilus hexagonolepis* (McClelland)
(Text-Fig. 1)**

Barbus hexagonolepis McClelland, 1839, *Asiat. Res.*, 19 : 270, 271, 336, pl.41, fig.3 (type-locality : Upper Assam); Day, 1878, *Fish. India*, : 564, pl.137, fig.4 ; Day, 1889, *Fauna Brit. Ind. Fish*, 1 : 305.

Accrossocheilus hexagonolepis, Jayaram, 1981, *Handbk. Freshw. Fish. India*, : 122, fig.59 (genus description and distribution)

Materials examined : 13 exs., 19mm. - 147mm. in standard length. Reg. No. ZSIF2529. Locality : from the Vanathiparai hill stream of Madurai district, Tamil Nadu. Name of coll. : S. S. Saha and date of collection : 19. 2. 1986.

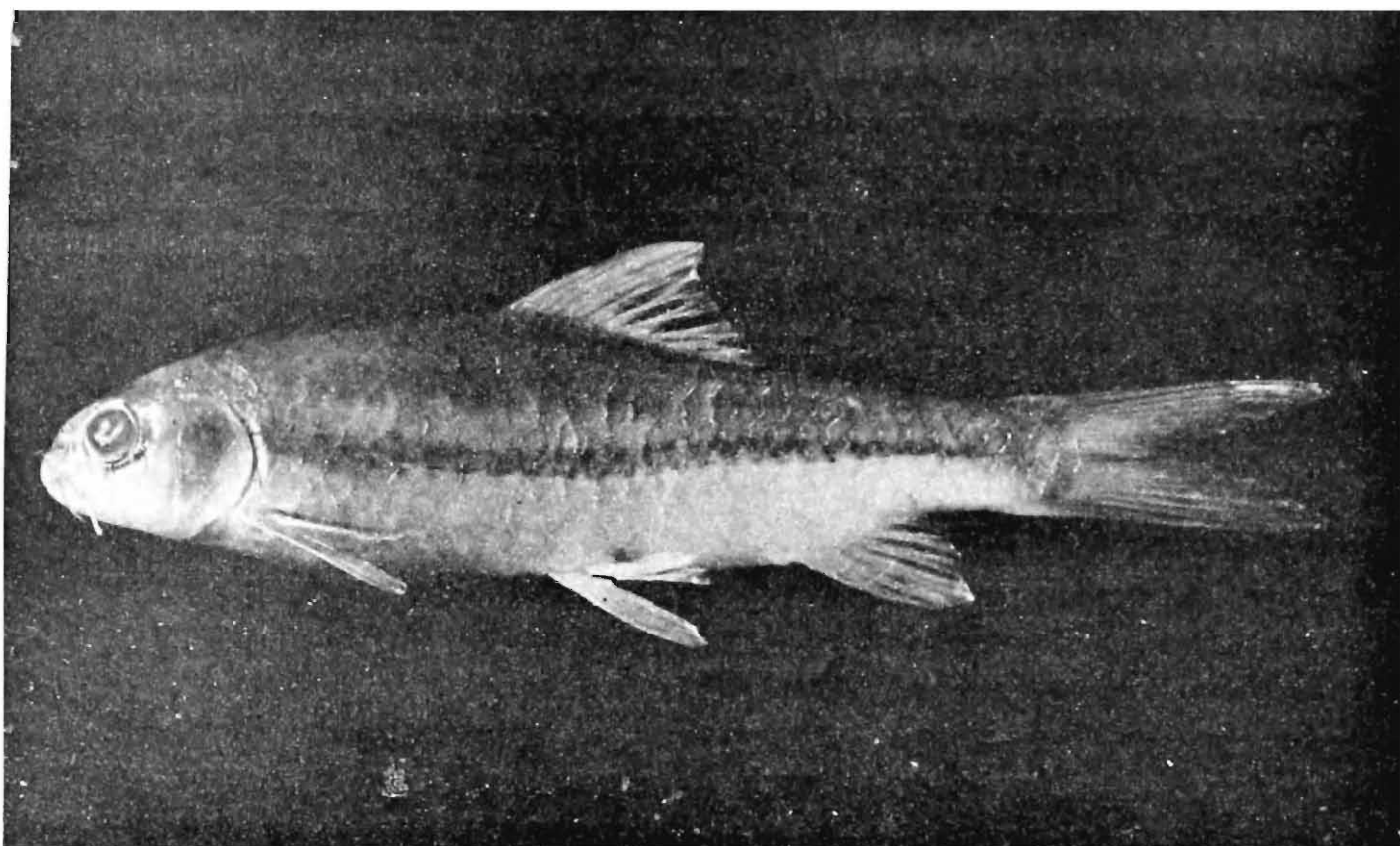


Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Accrossocheilus hexagonolepis* (McClelland) from Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, 107mm.SL.

DESCRIPTION

Head length 3.82 - 4.04 and body depth 3.45 - 3.73 in standard length. Eye diameter 3.05 - 4.10 in head length, 1.66 - 1.77 in interorbital width. Eyes, anterior, lateral in position, not visible from ventral surface. Snout length 2.84 - 3.00 in head length, 1.23 - 1.26 in interorbital width. Dorsal profile more convex than ventral profile. Interorbital space convex. Upper jaw longer and lower labial fold interrupted. Several rows of horny tubercles on sides and in front of the snout. Barbels two pairs, the maxillary pair longer extending up to below the posterior margin of the preopercles and rostral pair slightly shorter. Gape of mouth reaching anterior margin of the orbit and is subterminal in position. Lower lip conspicuously separated from lower jaw which has horny covering. Upper lip separated from the snout by a groove.

Scales : Lateral line complete covering 30 - 32 scales. Lateral transverse row of scales 9, scales between base of pelvic fin and lateral line is $3\frac{1}{2}$. Predorsal scales 11 and circumpeduncular scales 14.

Fins : D.III/9, A.II/5, P.17, V.9, C.19.

Dorsal fin originates slightly ahead of pelvic fin origin, midway between the tip of the snout and base of caudal fin. Pectoral fins not extending pelvic fin. Pelvic fin also not reaching anal fin which in turn not reaches base of caudal fin. A scaly flap or appendage is present before each pelvic fin. Caudal fin deeply forked with pointed lobes.

Colour in alcohol : Dorsal surface up to lateral line is darker, ventral surface below lateral line bluish grey. A conspicuous dark longitudinal stripe extending from opercular end to base of caudal fin. Fins slightly darker.

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