

EXTENSION OF RANGE OF DISTRIBUTION OF THREE GOBIID FISHES
TO SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT ON THE EAST T. N. COAST OF INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

During a recent faunistic survey of South Arcot District by the Scientists of this Station, the inland water bodies yielded several fish species including 6 gobioids and an eleotrid of which, 3 gobiids, viz. *Chiramenu fluviatilis* Visweswara Rao, *Acentrogobius globiceps* (Hora) and *Stigmatogobius javanicus* (Bleeker) were recorded for the first time from this area. The details of the collections are given below.

Suborder : GOBIOIDEI
Family : GOBIIDAE
Subfamily : GOBIINAE

Acentrogobius globiceps (Hora)
(Fig. 1)

1923. *Ctenogobius globiceps* Hora, *Mem. Indian Mus.*, 5 : 744, figs. 24 & 25 (Type locality : Chilka lake, Orissa).

1941. *Acentrogobius globiceps*, Koumans, *Mem. Indian Mus.*, 13 (3) : 234 (Redescription).

Material : 4 exs., 20-24 mm SL, Sankaraparni River, Cuddalore near Vannur Taluk ; 12th Jan 1994, M. Mary Bai.

Diagnostic characters : D. 1. VI ; D. 2. I/10 ; A. I/ 9 ; P. i/16. A small, elongate gobiid with 26-27 large scales in longitudinal series ; 7-8 predorsal scales ; numerous vertical rows of sensory pores below eye, cut across by an horizontal row in middle. Characterised by an oblique white stripe passing through second dorsal and upper caudal fins. Grows to a length of 30 mm SL.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3

- Fig. 1 : Lateral view of *Acentrogobius globiceps* (Hora), 24 mm SL
Fig. 2 : Lateral view of *Chiramenu fluviatilis* Visweswara Rao, 25 mm SL.
Fig. 3 : Lateral view of *Stigmatogobius javanicus* (Bleeker), 31 mm SL

Distribution : India : Gangetic delta, Chilka lake (Orissa) and Ennore backwaters and Vellar basin (Tamil Nadu) ; Java ; Borneo, and probably Singapore.

Remarks : This species was collected for the first time from the inland waters of Cuddalore Taluk from a small stream flowing into the estuary.

Chiramenu fluviatilis Visweswara Rao

(Fig. 2)

1970. *Chiramenu fluviatilis* Visweswara Rao, *J. mar. Biol. Ass. India*, 12 (1 & 2): 183-186. figs. 1 & 2 (Type locality : Godavari estuary, Andhra Pradesh)

Material : 1 ex., 25 mm SL, Killi village, near Porto Novo, Chidambaram Taluk, 12th Jan 1994, M. Mary Bai.

Diagnostic features : D. 1. VI ; D. 2. 1/10 ; A. I/10 ; P. i/15. Body slender and elongate ; mouth inferior, upper jaw prominent with a broad, beak like maxilla, with single row of teeth in upper jaw ; short vertical rows of sensory canal below eye ; scales small, 54-58 ctenoid scales in lateral series ; caudal emarginate ; body with five narrow vertical bands. Grows to 26 mm SL.

Distribution : India : Godavari estuary (Andhra Pradesh), Vellar basin (Tamil Nadu).

Remarks : *Chiramenu fluviatilis* Visweswara Rao was described from Godavary estuary in 1970 and since its original description has not been reported from elsewhere. The genus *Chiramenu* Visweswara Rao is monotypic and as the local name suggests, includes small, translucent gobiids growing to a length of 26 mm SL. These are reported to flood the Godavary estuary from around end of September to mid November, swimming against the flood waters, close to the banks. The occurrence of this fish further south extends its range of distribution in the inland water bodies draining into the Bay of Bengal.

Stigmatogobius javanicus (Bleeker)

(Fig. 3)

1856. *Gobius javanicus* Bleeker, *Natuurk. Tijdschr. Ned. Indie*, 11 : 88 (Type locality : Java).

1941. *Stigmatogobius javanicus*, Koumans, *Mem. Indian Mus.*, 13 (3) : 263 (Redescription),

Material : 4 exs., 21-31 mm SL ; Sankaraparni River near Vannur Taluk, 12th Jan 1994, M. Mary Bai.

Diagnostic features : D. 1. VI ; D. 2. I/6-7 ; A. I/6-7 ; P. i/14. Body elongate and compressed with 25-27 ctenoid scales along lateral series ; predorsal 6-8, the foremost scale is a large unpaired one in the median line ; snout shorter than eye ; upper jaw prominent ; two mucous canals longitudinally over cheek ; caudal obtuse. Head with dark stripe from eye to maxillary and dark oblong spot on cheek ; body with numerous minute spots and two to three longitudinal rows of alternate blotches : first dorsal with a dark spot, second dorsal and caudal spotted.

Distribution : India, through the East Indies, to the Philippines and Australia.

Remarks : This species has a wide range of distribution and in India it is known from Chilka, Godavary and Ennore estuaries. It has recently been collected from the inland water bodies of Pondicherry. This reports its extension of range of distribution to the fresh water streams flowing into the estuary.

Discussion : Gobioid fishes of South Arcot especially Porto Novo have been well studied and reported. Venkateswarlu (1967) listed 30 gobioid species ; Natarajan and Subramanyam (1974) reported on new distributional records of Gobioids from Porto Novo. Recently Lakshminarayana (1994) listed 34 gobioid species in his eco-report on the Vellar estuary. The present report includes 3 gobiids from South Arcot District. The occurrence of *Chiramenu fluviatilis* is of significance since it is known so far only from type locality. The other gobioids in the collection include *Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.) *Oligolepis acutipennis* (Val.) and *Trypauchen vagina* (Bloch & Schneider) and an eleotrid *Prionobutis koilomatodon* (Blkr.).

SUMMARY

Three species of gobiids viz. *Chiramenu fluviatilis* Visweswara Rao, known only from its type locality and two other widely distributed species, *Acentrogobius globiceps* (Hora) and *Stigmatogobius javanicus* (Bleeker) are reported for the first time from the inland waters of South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu.

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