



Rec. zool. Surv. India, **109**(Part-2) : 21-22, 2009

NEW RECORD OF *HORALABIOSA JOSHUAI* SILAS (PISCES : CYPRINIFORMES : CYPRINIDAE) FROM NORTH EAST INDIA

NIBEDITA SEN

Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong-793 003

The genus *Horlabiosa* and species *H. joshuai* was first described by Silas (1953) from Peninsular India based on 13 specimens (27-49 mm TL). For a number of years the genus was considered as a hybrid between *Garra* and *Rasbora*. Talwar and Jhingran (1991) synonymised it with *Garra mullya* (Sykes). After getting several specimens (598 exs. 12-90 mm TL) from different drainages and altitudes (730-1330 mts.) from original type locality. Rema Devi (1992) redescribed the species exhibiting a few variations and established its validity (Jayaram 1999). Subsequently another new species *Horlabiosa palaniensis* was described from Western Ghat, South India by Rema Devi and Menon (1994).

While studying the fish collections from Subansiri river, Dhemaji district, Assam, India, the author came across two interesting specimens (25-26 mm TL) along with other known species of *Garra*. On detailed study the specimens having post-labial callous structure were identified as *Horlabiosa joshuai* Silas (Plate I A, B, C).

MATERIAL EXAMINED

1 ex. (26 mm TL, 21 mm SL), (Regd. no. V/F/ERS/2130), Pabomukh, Subansiri river, Dhemaji district, Assam; alt. 32 mts., Lat. 27°34', Long 94°14'; R. Mathew and party, 03.02.2006.

1 ex. (25 mm TL, 21 mm SL), (Regd. no. V/F/ERS/2131), Subansiri River, Dhemaji district, Assam; alt. 99 mts., Lat 27°32', Long 94°15'; R. Mathew and party, 02.02.2006.

Diagnostic characters : D. 3/6, P.1/12-13, V.1/6-7, A.2/5, C.19, L.1.31-32

Predorsal scales 11-12 Ltr. 3½-40/3.0-3½. Body moderately elongate, head slightly longer than broad, length of head 5.0-5.7, body depth 6.3-7.4 in total length; head depth 1.3-1.6, head width 1.5-1.6, eye diameter 3.0-4.1, inter orbital distance 2.2-2.5 in head length; length of pectoral fin 5.2, pelvic fin 6.0-6.5, predorsal distance 2.1 in standard length; height of dorsal fin 0.7-0.8 in its body

depth. Callous pad is slightly longer than broad. The rostral and maxillary barbels are small but well developed, as long as or little shorter than eye, does not reach anterior border of orbit.

Remarks : The specimens are almost similar to those described by Rema Devi (1992) except few differences : length of head is more in present specimens, (5.0-5.7 versus 4.0-5.08 in total length); body depth (6.3-7.4 versus 5.08-7.22), length of pelvic fin (6.0-6.5 versus 4.09-6.0) are relatively longer; both rostral and maxillary barbels are almost of equal length and do not reach anterior border of orbit (versus maxillary extends beyond posterior margin of eye). The present specimens differ from *Horlabiosa palaniensis* Remadevi and Menon (1994) in presence of scales on predorsal, dorsal base and ventral region (absent in *palaniensis*); moreover lateral line scales are more (37) in *palaniensis* than *joshuai* (31-32).

It is interesting to note that the species recorded so far only from Peninsular India between altitude 730-1330 mts., whereas present specimens are collected between altitude 32-99 mts. only. The species has been recorded for the first time from North East India extending its range of distribution from Peninsular India to North East India justifying Hora's "Satpura Hypothesis".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata for permission to publish the same. Thanks are due to Mrs. R. Mathew and party for their collection.

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