

RECORD OF *TACHYSURUS CROSSOCHEILUS* (BLEEKER) (PISCES :
SILURIFORMES : ARIIDAE) FROM THE EAST COAST OF INDIA

Bleeker (1846) described *Arius crossocheilus* (= *T. crossocheilus*) from specimens collected from Batavia, East Indian Archipelago. Günther (1864), Weber and de Beaufort (1913), Harre (1926, 1953), and Fowler (1941) subsequently extended the range of distribution of this species to the Indo-Pacific seas.

Chandy (1953) recorded this species for the first time in India from Bombāy and

observed that it is not common. No record of this species subsequent to Chandy's observation has been made from any where else in India or even from Arabian sea. It is unfortunate that the two specimens obtained by Chandy, 191 mm. and 251 mm. in total length respectively are not present in the National Zoological Collections, Z. S. I., Calcutta, nor it has been included in the list of specimens present in the C. M. F. R. I.,

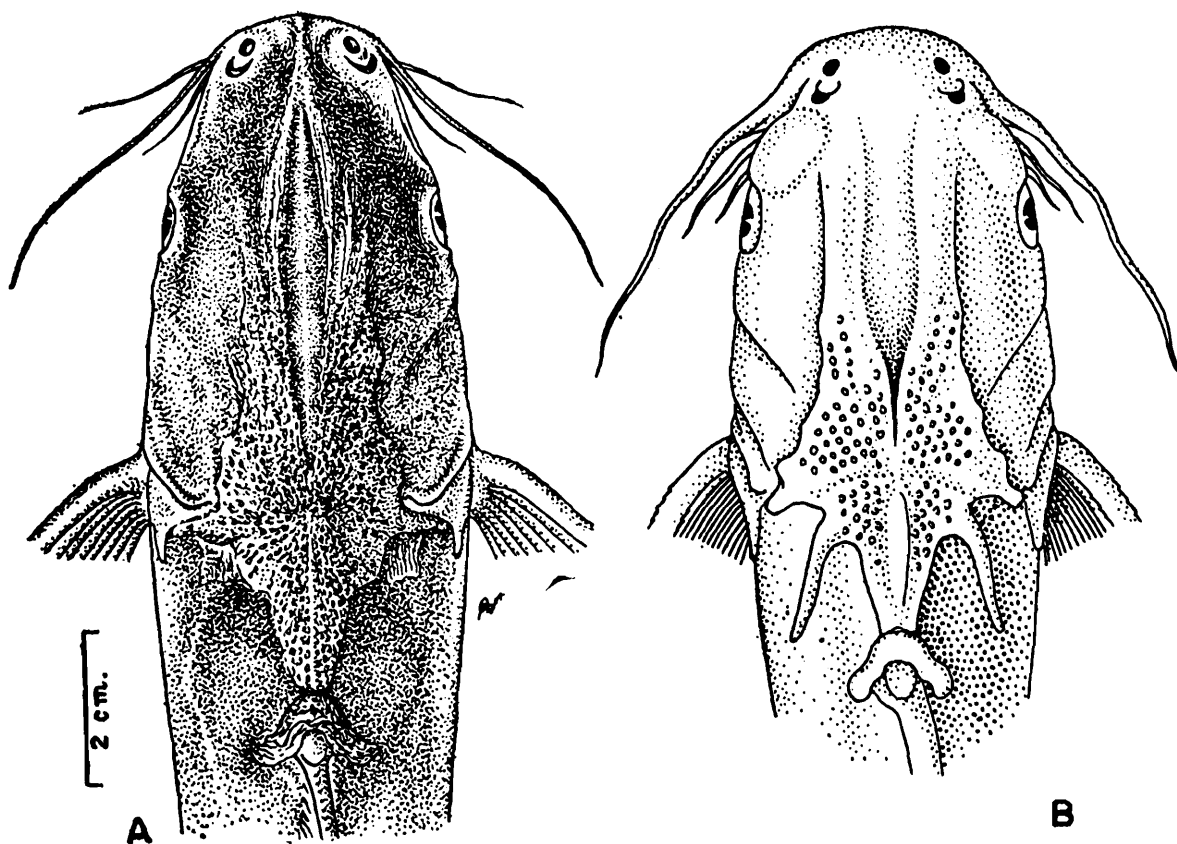


Fig. 1. A—Dorsal view of head and body of *T. crossocheilus* (Bleeker) showing the acute snout, absence of lateroethmoid protuberance in front of the eyes. B—Dorsal view of head and body of *T. dussumieri* (Valenciennes), to show the obtuse snout and the lateroethmoid protuberance in front of the eyes.



Fig. 2. A—Dentition in *T. crossocheilus* (Blk.), B—Dentition in *T. dussumieri* (Val.)

Mandapam (Murty, 1969). No other material of this species is present in Z. S. I.

In the light of the above uncertainty of the provenance of this species, it is worth while to report here the collection of four examples of *T. crossocheilus* (Bleeker) from the Bay of Bengal. During a recent survey of the West Bengal and Orissa coast the authors collected two examples measuring 225 mm, 240 mm from Balramgudi and two examples 155 mm, 170 mm from Gopalpur, in standard length respectively.

The species is clearly differentiated from *T. dussumieri* (Valenciennes) common in Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea by its possessing two patches of teeth on each side of the palate (Fig. 2) but with the posterior patch of teeth pyriform in shape (vs. elongated in *T. dussumieri*), besides the teeth themselves

being globular in shape (vs. Villiform) and the snout (Fig. 1) being more acute (vs. obtuse). Moreover the characteristic lateroethmoid protuberance over the eyes present in *T. dussumieri* is absent here.

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