

XIV.—DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES
OF *DANIO* FROM LOWER
BURMA.

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Danio annandalei, sp. nov.

Br. iii. D I. 15; A II. 16; P. 13; V I. 8; C 28; L. Lat. 46 to 50;
L. Trans. 13/3.

Height of body in the total length 3; length of head in the total length 6; interorbital width in length of head 2; diameter of eye in the length of head 4.

The lower jaw is the longer and forms a part of the profile; the cleft of the mouth is directed obliquely upwards and outwards.

Barbels.—Two small pairs. The anterior (rostral) pair is once-and-a-half as long as the posterior (maxillary) pair, which is contained five times in the length of the head.

Fins.—Dorsal commences six rays in advance of the anal, and there are sixteen rows of scales before its commencement. Pectorals do not reach the ventrals and there is an appendant superior and inner to each pectoral fin not longer than the interorbital width. The ventral fin is smaller and shorter than the pectoral and has no appendant. The anal fin is situated three rows of scales below the lateral line. Fins are diffusely spotted with black spots. The caudal fin is deeply forked. The lateral line is concave and runs from behind the origin of the pectoral fin to the root of the caudal fin. The position of the vent is immediately anterior to the anal fin.

Colour and markings.—There are numerous dark spots on the opercles and suborbital region, but none on the scaleless part of the head. The scales are spotted and prettily fringed with dark spots. The back, which is highly curved, is steel-blue, below which the upper one-third is faintly yellow, followed by the middle third, which is variegated in bands and dashes to be described hereafter; then the lower third is faintly yellow (like the upper third), and is terminated by the highly curved silvery belly. As the markings of the middle third are conspicuously different from those found in other allied species, they are described below rather minutely—

(a) *Transverse markings*.—One transverse steel-blue bar in the pale yellow ground just behind the opercle, broad above and tapering below, followed by a transverse yellow band rather narrow, then a lighter steel-blue transverse band edged with light yellow.

(b) *Longitudinal markings*.—From above downwards—(1st) one faint steel-blue-gray band, short and thin, only one-fourth of the total length, occupying about the middle portion ; followed by (2nd) a thin yellow band which loses itself behind in a yellow background ; (3rd) a long steel-blue band, broad but rather faint, running as far back as the posterior end of the dorsal fin ; (4th) three broad yellow dashes (broken up) in a steel-blue ground, continuous in a line, with a yellow band behind commencing about the middle and running to the root of the caudal fin, where it loses itself in the yellow ground colour ; (5th) a broad steel-blue band getting broader behind and ending at the third row of scales before the commencement of the caudal fin ; (6th) four or five blurred dashes or round yellow markings losing themselves behind in the steel-blue ground of the band above (5th), which is broader posteriorly ; (7th) three or four bright yellow dashes in a steel-blue ground continuous with a yellow band that commences above the origin of the anal fin and continues towards the caudal fin, but loses itself in the yellow background ; (8th) a steel-blue band tapering posteriorly, gradually disappearing before the yellow band (7th) above ; (9th) a few faint yellow dashes, terminating as it were in the steel-blue background.

Besides other apparent and conspicuous differences the new species differs from *D. spinosus* in possessing appendants to the pectoral fins (whereas *D. spinosus* has none), and from *D. dangila*, which possesses appendants to the ventral fins.

Two specimens were obtained by Dr. Annandale in March, 1908, in a small jungle stream near Kawkareik, at the base of the Dawna Hills in the interior of the Amherst district of Tenasserim. Together with them were taken several specimens of *Danio dangila* and *D. albolineatus*.

The name of the genus is derived from the word "Dhani" (belonging to *dhan* = paddy), by which name all the allied species are collectively called by the Bengalese, probably referring to the smallness of their size or to their being found in grassy jungles in the edges of rivers and lakes. In this habitat these coloured stripes, loops and dashes are of great importance to these small fishes.

