

XXXVII. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SAW-FISH CAPTURED OFF THE BURMA COAST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL'S STEAM TRAWLER "GOLDEN CROWN"

By B. L. CHAUDHURI, B.A., D.Sc.

*Pristis annandalei*, sp. nov.

Length of the rostrum in the total length 4·8, height of body 10·84, greatest breadth 6 in the total length. Breadth of rostrum at tip in the breadth of rostrum at base 1·75. The rostrum is armed with about 25 pairs of teeth, the left side having one more tooth than the right. The two anterior pairs and the two posterior ones are opposite to one another, the rest of the pairs do not lie opposite. Interspaces between teeth vary greatly, the diameter of the sockets of the teeth being contained in the interspaces differently, from 4 to 1: teeth are mostly unequal and uneven. Mouth transverse, with a membranous valve or fold hanging from the upper edge of the upper jaw behind the teeth,



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with two round lobes at two ends. Spiracles large and oblique, posterior to the eyes, the diameter of the eye being contained 4·6 times in the distance between the eye and the spiracle which is 2·1 diameters of the eye in length. Fins: first dorsal is neither entirely behind the ventral nor opposite to it, but commences slightly posterior to the anterior side of the ventral fin; second dorsal smaller than the first, not reaching the caudal; the distance between the second dorsal and the caudal contained 2·75 times in the distance between the two dorsals. The caudal has a distinct lower lobe, which is decidedly round. The keel is very imperfectly developed on the posterior part of the tail. Pectorals triangular, the distal angle almost a right angle.

*Colour.*—Head and upper part of the body ash-grey, gradually passing into light blue and then to light yellow on the sides, edged with a reddish line from snout to pectoral fins; eyes gold; body of the dorsal and caudal fins yellowish to light red; the claspers red.

One ♂ caught near Elephant Point, Burma Coast, in July 1908, measuring 8 feet 7 inches without the rostrum.

It differs from *Pristis zysron*, which it resembles in some respects, in the following points :—

- (1) It possesses an unequal number of teeth on the two sides of the saw, whereas *P. zysron* has the same number on each side;
- (2) the first dorsal in *P. zysron* is almost entirely behind the ventral, whereas in the new species it is almost above the ventral;
- (3) in *P. zysron* the second dorsal is larger than the first, in the new species it is smaller;
- (4) in *P. zysron* the second dorsal is situated near the root of the caudal, to which its posterior lobe almost reaches, but in the new species there is a considerable space between;
- (5) in *P. zysron* the caudal is without a lower lobe, but in the new species it has a distinct lower lobe, which is rounded;
- (6) the pectorals in *P. zysron* are rounded distally, whereas in the new species they are triangular.

I have compared the type of the new species with specimens of all the known Oriental species.

