

ON AN ABNORMAL CYPRINID FISH *PUNTIUS*
SARANA SARANA (HAMILTON) WITH A
FORKED BARBEL

By

A. K. KARMAKAR,

Zoological Survey of India,

Calcutta

Forked barbels occurring in catfishes have been recorded by several workers. Occurrence of forked barbel in cyprinid fishes has not been reported so far. Tandon and Shrama (1971) observed forked barbel in the silurid *Callichrous (Ompok) macrophthalmus* from Patran, Dist. Patiala, Punjab. Ovais (1974) recorded forked right nasal barbel in *Clarias batrachus* from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Datta and Ghosh (1975) reported a forked barbel in *Heteropneustes fossilis* from Barrackpore, West Bengal. Raghunathan (1976) noted forked barbel in *Ompok bimaculatus* from River Cauvery. Thakur and Singh Kohli (1976) reported forked left mandibular barbel in *Clarias batrachus* from Gunsar, District Darbanga, Bihar. Forked barbel and absence of pelvic fin was recorded by Edwin Chandrasekharan (1979) in the marine catfish, *Tachysurns maculatus* (Thunberg). Recently Babu Rao and Reddy (1984) reported a forked left maxillary barbel in *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch) from Hyderabad.

This note records the unilateral forked left posterior barbel in *Puntius sarana sarana* (Hamilton) (Family : Cyprinidae). This specimen was collected from Indravati River (a tributary of River Godavari) at Jagdalpur, District Bastar, Madhya Pradesh on 5.4.1979 by Dr. M. Hafeezullah & Party (present author was one of the party members). The left posterior barbel is forked after 3 mm. from its origin. The outer arm of the forked barbel measures 5.5 mm. in

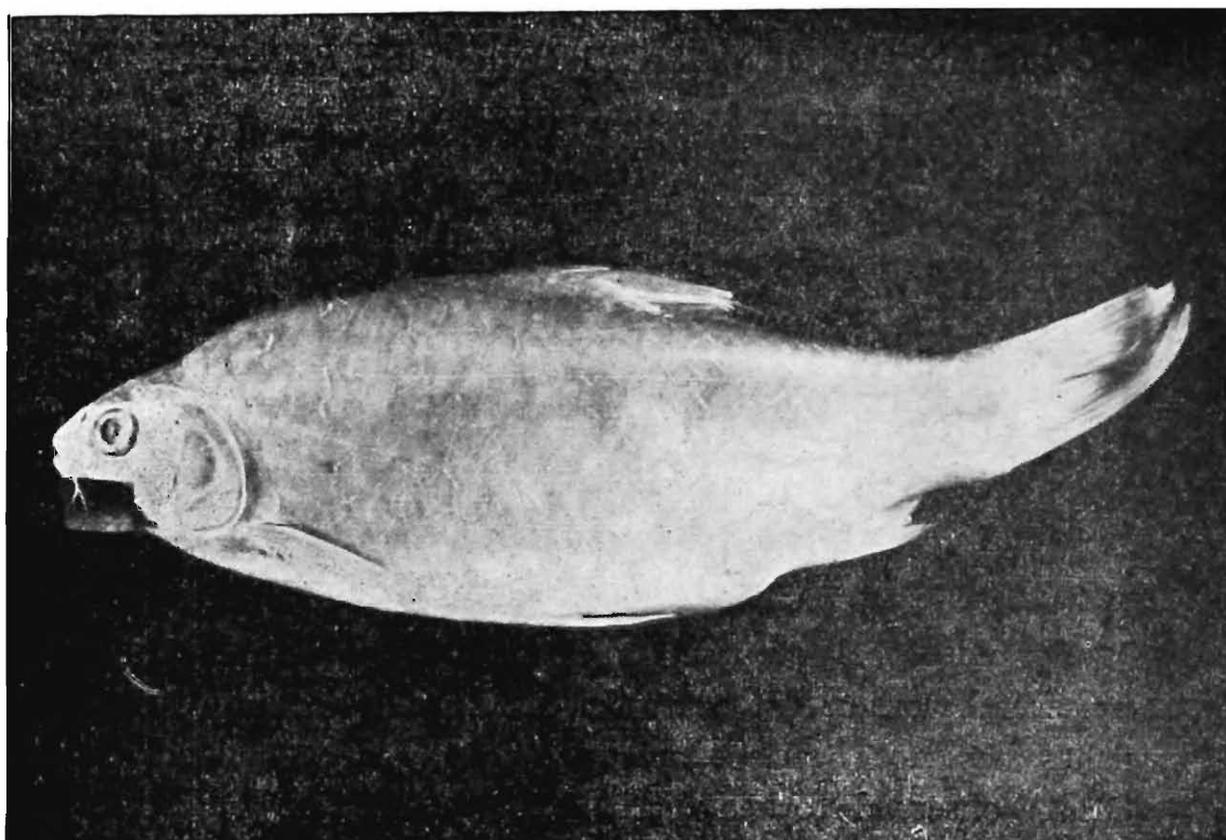


Fig. 1. *Puntius sarana sarana* (Hamilton) (205 mm. in Total Length) with forked barbel.

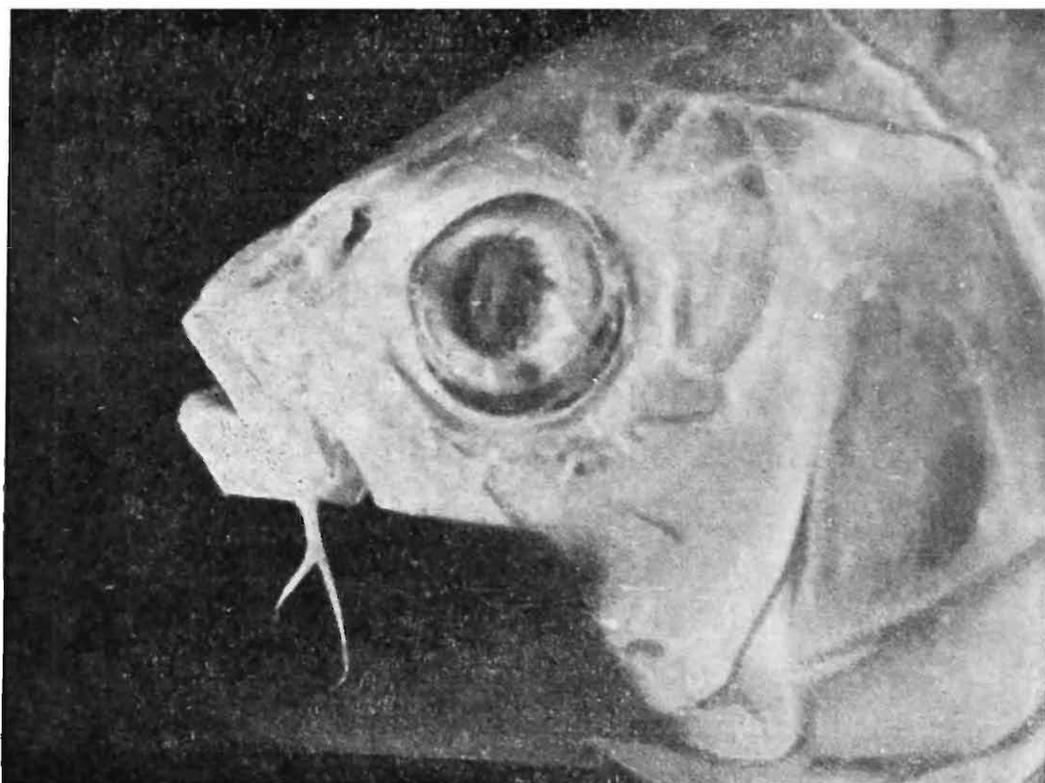


Fig. 2. Enlarged head of the same specimen showing the forked barbel.

length, while the inner arm measures 4.5. mm. The right unforked barbel is shorter than the left forked barbel and measures 7.5 mm. in length. The fish is otherwise normal in its external features.

The following are the meristic and morphometric characters of the abnormal specimen :

D=III/5 ; P=15 ; V=9 ; A=II/5 ; C=19 ; L.1.34.

Total length=205 mm. ; Standard length=165 mm. ; Head length=36.5 mm ; Body depth=60 mm ; Prepectoral distance 39.5 mm ; Preventral distance=83 mm ; Predorsal distance=84 mm ; Preanal distance=125 mm ; Pectoral fin length=31 mm ; Ventral fin length=27.5 mm ; Dorsal fin base=25.5 mm ; Anal fin base=16 mm ; Eye diameter=10 mm ; Snout length=11 mm ; Depth of peduncle=22 mm.

In the present specimen during early stage of development, in the course of tactile, gustatory, locomotary, aggressive or sexual activities, the barbel might have been injured or split, resulting in the growth of forked barel.

SUMMARY

An abnormal specimen of *Puntitus sarana sarana* (Hamilton) with forked left posterior barbel is reported. This abnormality is recorded for the first time in a cyprinid fish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is grateful to Dr. B.K. Tikader, Director, Zoological Survey of India for necessary facilities. He is also thankful to Dr. K. C. Jayaram, Joint Director and Dr. P. K. Talwar, Deputy Director, for encouragement.

REFERENCES

- BABU RAO, and REDDY, Y. SIVA 1984. On an abnormal catfish *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch 1794) (Pisces : Bagridae) with a forked maxillary barbel. *Bull. Zool. Surv. India*. 6 (1-3) : 295-296.

- DUTTA, A. K. and GHOSH, A. 1975. Bifurcated barbel in a catfish *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch) *Curr. Sci.*, **44** (11) : 389.
- EDWIN CHANDRASEKHARAN, G. 1979. Forked barbel and absence of pelvic fin in Marine catfishes of the family Ariidae. *Matsya*, **5** : 78-79.
- OVAIS, M. 1974. On the presence of a forked barbel in a catfish *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus). *Curr. Sci.*, **43** (4) : 125-126.
- RAGHUNATHAN, M. B. 1976. Occurrence of bifurcate maxillary barbel in *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch) from River Cauvery, South India. *Madras Journal of Fisheries*, **7** : 18.
- TANDON, K. K. and SHARMA, K. 1971. A specimen of *Callichrous macrophthalmus* (Blyth) with a forked right barbel, *Curr. Sci.*, **40** (16) : 438.
- THAKUR, N. K. and SINGH KOHLI, M. P. 1976. Forked barbel in an air breathing catfish *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.) *Matsya*, **2** : 74.