

Short Communication

**TOPOTYPE OF *BREGMACEROS MCCLELLANDI* THOMPSON
(PISCES : BREGMACEROTIDAE) FROM THE GANGETIC DELTA
WITH A REDESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIES**

INTRODUCTION

While going through the National Zoological Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, three specimens of the genus *Bregmaceros* Thompson, 1840 were found, collected from the Gangetic delta, West Bengal (26°–27° N and 88°–89° E), India. These specimens when examined and compared with the only species under the genus known from the Indian region (Talwar, 1984) identified as *B. mcClellandi* Thompson, 1840. Since the species was not adequately described in the original description and the present species has been collected from its type locality after a long period of 141 years, the species has been proposed here as a topotype of *B. mcClellandi* with a redescription of the species. It may also be mentioned here that the author of this species has not kept the type specimen of the species, therefore, collected of topotype from its type locality with a redescription of the species was long felt.

***Bregmaceros mcClellandi* Thompson**

1840. *Bregmaceros mcClellandi*, Thompson, *Charlesworth Mag. nat. Hist.*, 4 : 184 (Type-locality : Gangetic delta, West Bengal, India).

1984. *Bregmaceros mcClellandi*, Talwar, *Commercially Sea Fishes of India* : 294 (description and distribution).

Materials examined : 3 exs., 62 to 88 mm Total length; Reg. No. : ZSI, Calcutta, F9353/2; Bakkhali, Gangetic delta, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India; Coll. : P. Mukherjee Date of coll. 03.02.1981.

Body moderately elongate and compressed. Head length 6.76 to 7.13 and body depth 6.28 to 6.88 in total length. Eye diameter 3.83 to 4.50 in head length. Snout length 3.60 to 4.33 and postorbital length 1.80 to 1.90 in head length. Dorsal fin two, first dorsal consist of a single long ray originated on top of rear portion of head, extending almost up to origin of second dorsal. Second dorsal and anal fins with broad bases almost similar length, the middle rays of both the fins much shorter. Pelvic fins originated under rear part of head, with 5 rays, of which the outer 3 rays long and thick extending far beyond the origin of anal fin. Pectoral fins with 25 rays, inserted just behind the opercular end. Caudal fin forked. Lateral line scales 63 to 65.

Colour : Dorsal surface and upper part of sides light brown, lower sides and abdomen silvery. Entire or upper part of pectoral fin black. Anterior and posterior part of second dorsal and fin black. Caudal fin black. Fins of the young specimens colourless.

Size : This species is known to attain up to 100 mm total length.

Distribution : Indo-West Pacific.

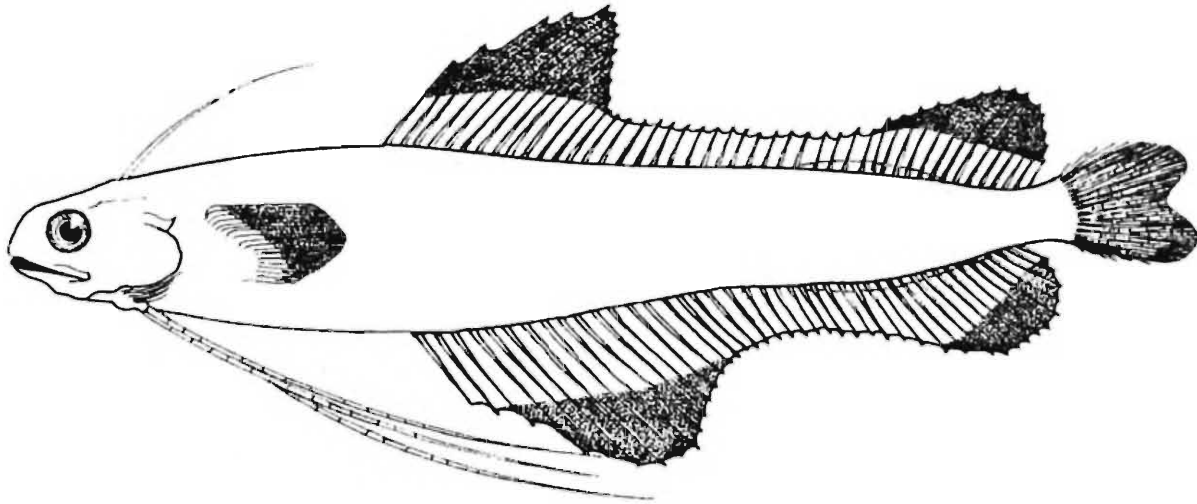


Fig. 1. *Bregmaceros mcClellandi* Thompson.

SUMMARY

Three specimens of *Bregmaceros mcClellandi* Thompson, 1840 were collected from its type locality, the Gangetic delta, West Bengal, India. This species has been designated as a topotype with a redescription of this species in this paper.

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Zoological Survey of India,
F. P. S. Building,
Kolkata-700 016.

R. P. Barman
P. Mukherjee
S. Kar