

NOTES ON FISHES IN THE INDIAN MUSEUM.

XLV ON A COLLECTION OF FISH FROM THE FOOT OF PARASNATH HILLS, CHOTA NAGPUR.

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Our knowledge of the fish fauna of the Parasnath Hills is very meagre, and the little that is known of it is due to the efforts of Drs. Jenkins¹ and Annandale². They visited Parasnath Hills in April 1909, and collected fish specimens from the Sita nullah at a height of 2150 feet. Only five species were represented in their collection, *viz.*, *Glyptothorax saisii*, *Nemachilus savona*, *Garra lamta*, *Danio dangila* and *Ophicephalus gachua*. The writer visited the Hills in the month of June 1949 with a view to make a faunistic survey of the region, and in particular to study the ecological and climatological conditions there. As many of the streams in the Hills were practically dry during the period of my visit no collection of aquatic animals could be made from there. The material under report was, therefore, mainly obtained from the Isri river at the foot of Parasnath Hills on its southern side. A complete list of species with remarks on a few interesting fishes is given in this paper. The collection comprises specimens belonging to the following 16 species :—

Family NOTOPTERIDÆ.

1. *Notopterus notopterus* (Ham.).

Family CYPRINIDÆ.

Subfamily RASBORINÆ.

2. *Barilius vagra* (Ham.)
3. *Brachydanio rerio* (Ham.)
4. *Esomus danricus* (Ham.)
5. *Rasbora daniconius* (Ham.)

Subfamily CYPRININÆ.

6. *Barbus (Puntius) chagunio* (Ham.)
7. *Barbus (Puntius) sophore* (Ham.)
8. *Barbus (Puntius) ticto* (Ham.)
9. *Crossocheilus latius* (Ham.)
10. *Garra lamta* (Sykes)
11. *Labeo boggut* (Sykes)

Family COBITIDÆ.

12. *Lepidocephalichthys guntea* (Ham.)
13. *Nemachilus dayi* (Hora)

Family CLARIIDÆ.

14. *Clarias batrachus* (Linn.)

Family ANABANTIDÆ.

15. *Colisa labiosus* (Day)

Family MASTACEMBELIDÆ.

16. *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacep.)

Majority of the above species are well known and widely distributed and hence do not call for any special remarks. But the presence of *Garra lamta*, *Labeo boggut*, *Nemachilus dayi* and *Colisa labiosus* in the collection is of special interest and accordingly a few remarks are made below on these four species.

¹ Jenkins, J. T., *Rec. Ind. Mus.* X, pp. 123-140 (1910).

² Annandale, N., *Rec. Ind. Mus.* VII, pp. 34-49 (1912).

Garra lamta (Sykes).

1921. *Garra lamta*, Hora, *Rec. Ind. Mus.* XXII, pp. 660-662.

Nine specimens, 61 to 121.5 mm. long, are referable to *Garra lamta*. This species, according to Hora, is restricted to the Eastern part of the Vindhya Range and the Nepal Terai. Its record from Parasnath is, therefore, of some interest as it indicates the probable occurrence of a hilly terrain between the Monghyr hills and those of the Chota Nagpur Plateau.

Labeo boggut (Sykes).

1949. *Labeo boggut*, Hora, *Journ. Zool. Soc. Ind.* I, p. 3.

Labeo boggut is represented by 8 specimens in the collection under report, the largest being 169.5 mm. in total length. It has hitherto been known only from the Deccan plateau, the Vindhyas and the Satpuras, and its present records from the Parasnath area is, therefore, of considerable zoogeographical interest.

Nemachilus dayi (Hora).

1935. *Nemachilus dayi*, Hora, *Rec. Ind. Mus.* XXXVII, pp. 56-58.

Two well preserved specimens, measuring 60 mm. each, are referable to *Nemachilus dayi*. These specimens agree well with the specimens of this species from the Satpuras, in the Museum collection.

Nemachilus dayi is known only from Peninsular India, the Vindhyas, and the Satpura mountains. Its record from Parasnath is, therefore, of special interest from the zoogeographical point of view.

Considering the present range of distribution of *Nemachilus dayi*, one is led to the conclusion that the specimens of *Nemachilus savona* of Jenkins from Parasnath-Hills may have been wrongly identified and may be referable to *Nemachilus dayi* Hora.

Colisa labiosus (Day).

1878. *Trichogaster labiosus*, Day, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Fish.* II, p. 372.

Colisa labiosus Day is represented by 7 specimens ranging from 70 to 80.2 mm. in total length. According to Day, *Colisa labiosus* is found only in the "Irrawaddy at Rangoon, and at least as high as Mandalay". This is the first record of this species for India. Recently a few specimens of this species were also collected from Hoshiarpur district in E. Punjab by Mr. Om Prakash Dhingra of the Punjab University.