

VII ON A NEW SPECIES OF *DISCOGNATHUS* FROM THE KANGRA VALLEY

By B. PRASHAD, D.Sc., Superintendent of Fisheries, Bengal Fisheries Laboratory, Indian Museum, Calcutta.

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(With two text-figures).

The identification of the various Indian species of the genus *Discognathus* has always been a matter of great difficulty. The task has, however, been made much easier by the admirable treatment of the subject by Dr. Annandale. This paper, of which I had the privilege of consulting the manuscript and the original drawings, is published in the present volume of the "Records" immediately previous to this note (pp. 125-138). I am also deeply indebted to Dr. Annandale for his valuable advice regarding this species of fish and for going through the manuscript. The specimens of this fish were sent to me by L. Devi Ditta Mal of the Punjab Fisheries Department and to him also my best thanks are due.

*Discognathus kangrae*, sp. nov.

This species differs from the other Indian species of the genus in the proportions of the different parts of the body, in the shape and size of the mental disc, the situation of the eye, the shape of the tail and the dorsal fin.

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The total length is about  $4\frac{1}{3}$  times the greatest depth of the body and less than 4 times the length of the head. The diameter of the eye, which is situated nearer the operculum than the snout, is contained a little less than 8 times in the length of the head. The interorbital space is slightly convex, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times the diameter of the eye. The snout has in the adult male a large number of tubercles, some with small conical spines, arranged in two to three rows on the lateral sides of the head. There is a fairly deep groove of a semicircular outline on the dorsal surface of the head, extending along the sides up to the nostrils, but there is no projection. The nostrils are large and prominent. The dorsal profile from the anterior edge of the dorsal fin is nearly straight up to the eyes, whence it suddenly slopes forwards; behind the dorsal fin the profile is slightly concave. The upper lip is fairly broad and the lower lip is very much enlarged with an ovoid mental disc. There are four barbels, the posterior pair at the margins of the mouth being much smaller than the anterior ones.

The ventral surface is convex with scales extending forward on the chest in the form of a triangle. The pectoral fins are much shorter than the head and do not extend nearly to the ventrals; they are set obliquely on the sides of the body but much nearer the ventral surface than in some other species. The caudal fin is deeply forked; the two lobes are nearly of the same size. The dorsal fin originates further forwards than the ventrals and is

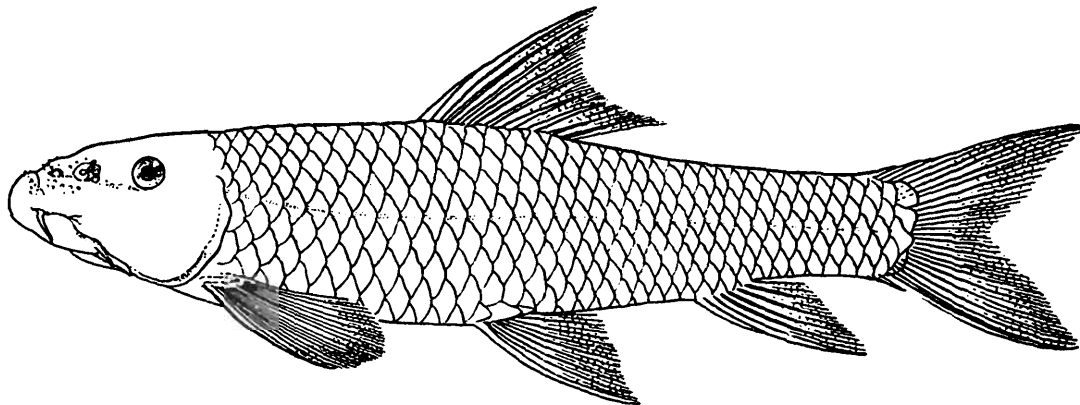


FIG. 1.—*Discognathus kangrae*, sp. nov.  
Type specimen (adult male) from the Kangra Valley (slightly reduced).

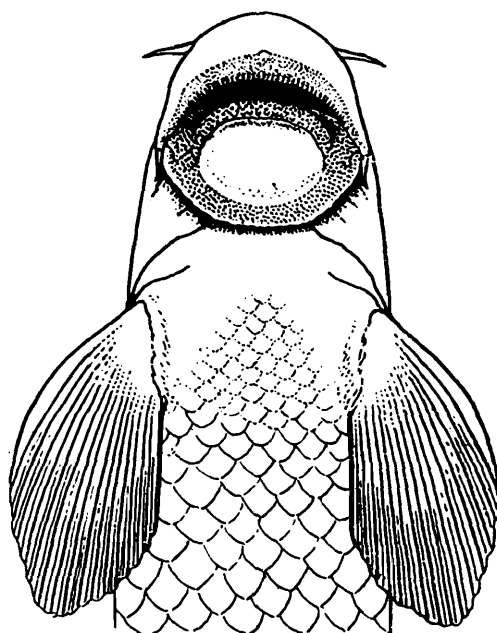


FIG. 1a.—*Discognathus kangrae*, sp. nov.  
Ventral surface of head and chest of same specimen.

much shorter than the maximum depth of the body; the first unbranched ray is well developed but not ossified; the second is fairly thick, much larger than the first but like it not ossified; it is shorter than the head. The specimens are of a uniformly bluish-grey colour, the ventral surface being yellowish.

The largest specimen measures 14 cm. in length.

Type-specimen.—F. <sup>999</sup>/<sub>1</sub> Zoological Survey of India (Ind. Mus.).

*Locality.*—In a hill-stream at Jaugal-khad, Kangra district, Punjab. Four specimens.

The present species comes near *D. lamta*, but the shape of the snout, the body as a whole and the tail fin, the position and insertion of the pectoral fins and the structure of the mental disc are sufficient to mark it off as a distinct species.

In Dr. Annandale's key (*loc. cit.*) the species would be distinguished from the typical *D. lamta* and *D. jerdoni* by the length of the head being not more than one fourth of the total length.

