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ON A NEW SPECIES OF *KRYPTOPTERUS* (PISCES : SILUROIDEA, FAMILY : SILURIDAE) FROM NAMDAPHA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In the faunistic survey of the Namdapha area Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh, India, a new fish of the family Siluridae, genus *Kryptopterus* Bleeker was found. *Kryptopterus indicus* sp. nov. is described here and its zoogeographical affinities are discussed.

Introduction

An interesting collection of fish comprising 235 examples were collected during the survey and one example of catfish of the genus *Kryptopterus* (Family : Siluridae) was found to be new, it is named as ***Kryptopterus indicus.***

Material

(Fig. 1)

Holotype : 218 mm. in standard length. Reg. No. Z. S. I. F. F. 1699. *Locality*—Horn bill point, Namdapha river, Namdapha Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Coll. Dr. S. Biswas & S. Saha*. Date 18.4.81.

Diagnosis

Dorsal fin rudimentary with one minute ray, adipose dorsal absent. Anal fin long with 88 rays, continuous with caudal fin. Eyes subcutaneous above the angle of mouth. Vent with a papilliform appendage.

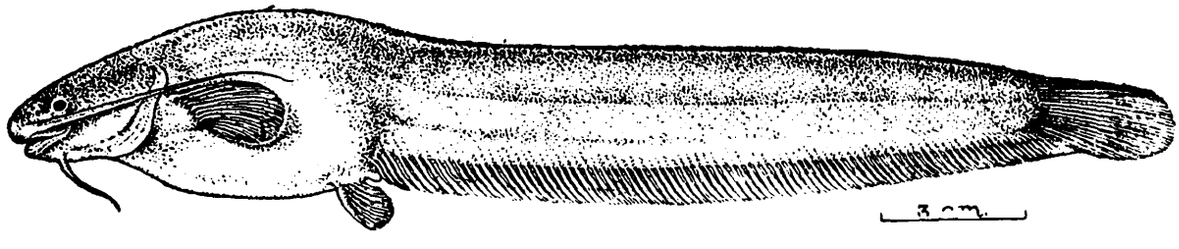

Fig. 1. Lateral view of *Kryptopterus indicus* Datta, Barman and Jayaram.

Description

Dorsal fin rudimentary with one minute ray and adipose dorsal fin absent, body laterally compressed beyond vent. Abdomen rounded, head depressed dorsoventrally flattened. Depth of body 5.45 in standard length. Length of head 5.89 in standard length, its width 1.32 in its length. Anterior part of back convex, posterior part concave. Eye nearer to cleft of mouth, 9.25 in head, 3.25 in snout, 4.25 in interorbital width. Jaws subequal, maxilla over hanging, gape of mouth extending near to the anterior border of eye. Maxillary barbel tip filamentous, 1.48 in head length, reaching beyond posterior margin of pectoral fin. Mandibular barbel half the length of head. Caudal fin with 17 rays shorter than head. Anal 88 rays. Pelvic shorter than pectoral, with 8 rays.

Affinities

The new species *Kryptopterus indicus* is closely allied to *K. limpok* Bleeker. Smith (1945) differentiated eight species of *Kryptopterus* found in Thailand. These are *K. apogon* (Bleeker), *K. bicirrhis* (C. & V.), *K. bleekeri* Günther, *K. cryptopterus* (Bleeker), *K. hexapterus* (Bleeker), *K. limpok* (Bleeker), *K. micronema* (Bleeker), *K. moorei* Smith. The differences between the new species and the allied species (*K. limpok*) are in respect to the maxillary barbel reaching posterior margin of pectoral fin versus maxillary barbel reaching posterior fourth of anal fin, mandibular barbel half the length of head versus mandibular barbel longer than head, anal fin rays eighty eight versus anal rays seventy. The common characters are dorsal fin having one ray, ventral rays seven, anal fin confluent with the base of caudal.

Measurement in mm

Standard length	— 218
Depth of body	— 40
Length of head	— 37
Height of head	— 23
Width of head	— 28
Length of snout	— 13
Diameter of eye	— 4
Interotbital width	— 17
Lateral line	— Present
Dorsal fin	— rudimentary with one ray
Length of pectoral	— 24
Distance from anterior origin of pelvic to base of caudal	— 150
Anal fin rays	— 88 (3/85)
Distance from vent to anal	— Overlapping
Pectoral fin rays	—12 (1/11)
Anal length	— 135
Vent	— papillated cirris-like
Length of Maxillary barbel	— 55
Length of Mandibular barbel	— 18
Brancheostegal ray	— 12
Ventral fin rays	— 8(1/7)
Lenth of ventral fin	— 13

Zoogeography

The occurrence of *Kryptopterus indicus* in Namdapha area, with its closest allies in Thailand is of zoogeographical interest.

Namdapha river originates and drains North-west slope of Patkai Bum, thereafter flowing westward to join the Brahmaputra river. The head waters of Namdapha is close to Chindwin drainage having a common catchment area.

Hora (1939) postulated that the fish fauna of peninsular India has the so called Malayan element and there exists affinities at the generic level among the fauna found in Malaya and peninsular India. Hora thought that the Malayan elements dispersed westward along the Garo-Rajmahal hills and reached peninsular areas through the Western ghats. Jayaram (1974) showed that the ichthyofauna of peninsular India was dispersed by several intrusions of the so-called Malayan element that was derived from Indo-China. He suggested that the maior faunal dispersal centre was the Yunnan plateau and it was the epicentre of dispersal in all directions.

Considering the above views, it may be said that *Kryptopterus indicus* is one such offshoot of the Indo-chinese element in the Indian fauna.

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