

Chevey, P. & J. Pellegrin, 1940. Poissons nouveaux ou rares de Cochinchine. Description de deux espèces et de deux variétés. Bull. Soc. zool. Fr. 65: 153-158. (Kate Spear & Noémie Legras, Trans.)

New or rare fish of Cochinchina: Description of two species and two varieties

This note describes several fish collected in Cochinchine by the Oceanographic Institute of Indochina that arrived at the Museum of Paris between 1938 and 1940. Besides several little known forms described recently by Fowler, two species and two varieties are new to science, including the intriguing blind *Typhlachirus elongatus*, n. sp. Soleidae.¹ We wish to express our appreciation to Pr. Kalin of Fribourg (Swiss), who kindly photographed this interesting animal, and M.P.W. Fang, who made the drawings reproduced here.

Cyprinidae

1. *Leptobarbus rubripinnis* Fowler.

Our two specimens measuring $115 + 20 = 135$ mm and $115 + 22 = 137$ mm and coming from Vi-Thanh (Xano Canal, Rach Gia province) fit well with the Fish of Kemrat (Siam), 85 mm described by Fowler² under the name *Filirasbora rubripinna*, n. g., n. sp., but the lateral line ending on the lower half of the caudal peduncle places them in the genus *Leptobarbus* Bleeker.

Formulas of our specimens: D. III 8; A. III 5; Sq. $4 \frac{1}{2} | 34-35 | 4 \frac{1}{2}$. Pharyngeal teeth 5, 3, 1 – 1, 3, 5.

2. *Cyclocheilichthys rubripinnis* Fowler var. *microcephala*, nov.

The height of the body is contained $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times in its length, excluding the caudal fin, and the length of the head $3 \frac{3}{5}$ times. The profile is at first straight, and then becomes strongly convex at the posterior edge of the eye. There are no barbels. The diameter of the eye is the same size as the snout and is contained $1 \frac{1}{5}$ times in the interorbital space and $3 \frac{2}{3}$ times in the length of the head. There are 34 scales in longitudinal length: 4 between the lateral and the ventral lines, 14 predorsals, and 16 around the caudal peduncle. The third ray of the dorsal fin is strong, osseous, has approximately 20 denticulations in the back, and is $\frac{4}{5}$ the length of the head.

¹ Translator's note: synonym for *Brachirus elongatus*; English name, Mekong blind sole.

² Pr. Ac. Sc. Nat. Philad., 89, 1937, p. 172, fig. 107.

The coloration is brownish on the back and silver on the sides and on the belly, with a darkened round spot that measures the same size of the eye at the end of the caudal peduncle; each scale on the sides is marked with a black spot.

D. III 8; A. III 5; Sq. $6 \frac{1}{2}$ | 34 | $6 \frac{1}{2}$.

N° 40-38. Mus. Coll. – Tan Khanh-Hoa (Rach Giang Tanh, Hatien province): Oceanographic Institute of Indochina.

Length : $80 + 15 = 95$ mm .

This fish is quite similar to *C. rubripinnis* Fowler³ from Ban Thung Luang (Siam), but the head is smaller, the profile more cambered, and the eye larger.

3. *Crossochilus entmema* Fowler.

Our specimen from Mong-Tho (Rach Soi Bassac Canal, Rach Gia province) measures $85 + 20 = 105$ mm, resembling *Tylognathus entmema* Fowler⁴, but the shape of the mouth places it in the genus *Crossochilus*.

D. III 8; A. III 5; Sq. $5 \frac{1}{2}$ | 35 | $5 \frac{1}{2}$.

Soleidae

4. *Cynoglossus puncticeps* Richardson var. *immaculata*, nov.

The height of the body is contained $3 \frac{3}{4}$ times in its length excluding the caudal fin, the length of the head $5 \frac{3}{4}$ times. The head is higher than it is long. The eye is contained $9 \frac{1}{2}$ times in the length of the head, the snout $2 \frac{2}{3}$ times. The scales are ctenoid on both sides. There are 2 lateral lines on the colored side. Between them there are 18 rows of scales.

The coloration of the colored side of the head and of the body is uniformly light brown, with no markings.

D. 98; A. 75; Sq L. lat. 96.

N° 40-39. Mus. Coll. – Bac Lieu : Oceanographic Institute of Indochina

Length : $133 + 11 = 144$ mm.

³ *Op. cit.*, 86, 1934, p. 343, fig. 7.

⁴ *Op. cit.*, 86, 1934, p. 134, fig. 101-102.

Compared to *C. puncticeps* Richardson (wide geographic distribution including India, Malaysia, China), this variety is differentiated by its uniform, light brown coloration, its smaller eye, and its relatively higher and shorter head.

5. *Typhlachirus elongatus*, n. sp.

The body resembles the shape of a willow leaf, round in the front and pointed in the back; its height is contained $2\frac{1}{3}$ times in its length excluding the caudal fin; the length of the head almost 4 times. Eyes are not discernable on the right side or colored (?). The nostril on the right side has a relatively large opening. There is no fringe on the upper lip, or on the lower, but a few small tentacles on the left side of the muzzle. The mouth is subterminal, well arcuate, with an upper convexity; the distance between the end of the muzzle and the corner of the mouth is contained $2\frac{1}{5}$ times in the length of the head. The lateral line is straight on the body, then reaches back on the head, making a semicircle ending in the front. The left side also has a lateral line. The scales, ctenoid on both sides, number 104 in the longitudinal line and (23-25)/33 on the transversal line. The dorsal, caudal, and anal fins meet in the back, their fringe is not scaly. The dorsal fin begins at the muzzle and has 60 to 65 rays; the anal fin 40 or 41; the caudal fin 12. The right pectoral is missing; the left one is vestigial and represented only by a membrane. The right ventral fin has 3 rays and continues into the anal fin; the left ventral has 3 rays and is free. The caudal fin is quite pointed and as long as the head.

The coloration on both sides is uniformly yellowish-white or greyish-white.

D. 60-65; A. 40-41; V. 3; C. 12; Sq. 23-25 | 104 | 33.

N° 39-270. Mus. Coll. – Bac Lieu : Oceanographic Institute of Indochina.

2 specimens. Length $33 + 6 = 39$ and $30 + 5 = 35$ mm.

In 1931, Dr. J. D. F. Hardenberg described⁵ a curious fish in the Soleidae family with quite rudimentary or absent eyes under the name *Typhlachirus caecus*, n.g. n. sp. The specimens measure 98 to 140 mm and came from the brackish and muddy waters of Bagan Si Api Api (Malacca Strait).

The fish described here and harvested on the more or less brackish waters of the Bac Lieu Canal at Vinh Chau is known locally as *Ca luoi mèo* and is differentiated from *T. caecus* by a more elongated shape, a more arcuate mouth, a larger and non-tubular right nostril, absent or vestigial pectoral fins, and a light and uniform coloration with no brown on top.

⁵ *Treubia*, XIII, 1931, p. 415, fig. 5.

The fish possesses affinities with *Synaptura lipophtalma* Karoli⁶, a marine species from Bornéo, also with absent eyes, an arcuate mouth, and an absent right pectoral fin, but differentiated by its smaller scales (L. long. 104 instead of 85) and its coloration.

Synaptura sorsogonensis Evermann and Seale⁷ from the Philippines also has some common characteristics, but it has an oval shape, the formulas are different (D. 74; A. 61; L. lat. 141), and it has eyes and pectoral fins.

Anabantidae

6. *Trichopodus microlepis* Günther.

Our specimen of $70 + 12 = 82$ mm, coming from Vi-Thanh (Song Cai-Nut, Rach-Gia district), closely resembles *T. parvipinnis* Sauvage, from Siam and Cochinchine, that Regan⁸ relates to *T. microlepis* Günther. In the picture given by Fowler⁹ for this species, the head is much bigger, the body less high.

Gobiidae

7. *Boleophthalmus Tylori* Fowler.

Our specimen of $135 + 30 = 165$ mm, as with the Cynoglosse and Typhlachire, from more or less brackish waters of the Baclieu Canal of Vinh Chau, is congruent with the specimen described by Fowler¹⁰ of 200 mm coming from Bangkok. It also has on the caudal fin traces of dark lateral lines: D. V – 30; A. 28; P. 17; V. I 5. The scales are so short, nearly obsolete, they cannot be counted.

Tetraodontidae

8. *Tetrodon (Leiodon) Fangi*, n. sp.

The length of the head is equal to its distance from the base of the dorsal fin and is contained approximately $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times in its length excluding the caudal fin. The diameter of the eye is included $1 \frac{1}{2}$ times in the length of the muzzle, $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times in the flat interorbital space, $4 \frac{1}{2}$ times

⁶ *Termeszetrpzi füzetek*, V, 1882, p. 30.

⁷ *Bull. Bur. Fish.*, XXVI, 1906, p. 106, fig. 22.

⁸ *Pr. Zool. Soc.*, 1909, II, p. 784.

⁹ *Pr. Ac. Sc. Nat. Philad.*, 89, 1937, fig. 204.

¹⁰ *Op. cit.*, 86, 1934, p. 159, fig. 128.

in the length of the head. The teeth are white and the same size on each jaw. There is no nasal aperture, but on each side there is a concavity with a cupuliform, bilobate organ, borne by a short peduncle. The back, the sides, and the belly are covered by small papillae which are soft, flat, and extremely close, replacing the spines. There are deep cutaneous folds at the base of the dorsal, anal and caudal fins. The dorsal fin is short, low, round, and composed of 2 simple rays and 8 branchy rays. The anal fin is equally reduced, rounded, and has an equal number of rays. The pectoral fin is round and shortened underneath, measuring $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the head. The caudal fin is round and $\frac{1}{2}$ of this length.

The general color is brownish on top, light grey below. More or less hexagonal dark spots, very close and separated from each other by whitish lines, are especially clear on the flanks and are extended on the belly. At the dorsal level, on both sides on the middle of the body, there is a clearly distinguished ocellated spot – the middle is white and the periphery black, with a thin whitish border, the size slightly larger than the eye.

D. II 10; A. II 10; P. I 23; C. I | 8 | I.

N° 40-42. Mus. Coll. – Vi-Thanh (Xano canal, Rach-Gia district): Oceanographic Institute of Indochina.

Length $55 + 12 = 67$ mm

This fish, in Cochinchina known as *Cà noc mit*, seems by the shape of its nostril especially close to the sub-genus *Leiodon* Swainson; nevertheless it is quite different, by its general appearance, the reduction of fins and the cutaneous fold at their base, and the absence of spines, together with its coloration, from *T. (Leiodon) patoca* Hamilton Buchanan of India, Malaysia and China. We gladly dedicate this fish to M. P. W. Fang who specialized in the study of the fishes of this last region.

Erratum

In the note: J. Pellegrin and P. W. Fang. Poissons de Chine de M. Ilo. Description de deux espèces nouvelles. *Bull. Soc. Zool.*, LXIV, 1939, n° 6, p. 341 and 342 (fig. 2) in place of *Aoria Iloi*, n. sp. read *Pseudobagrus Iloi*, n. sp.