HOMALOPTERA CALDWELLI, A NEW CHINESE LOACH

By J. T. Nichols

Homaloptera caldwelli, new species

Description of Type.—Number 8413, American Museum of Natural History; from near Yenping, Fukien; H. R. Caldwell.

Length to base of caudal, 48 mm. Depth in length, 5; head, 4.6. Eye in head, 5; snout, 2; interorbital, 2.4; width of mouth, 3.5; posterior barbel, 5; greatest width of body (behind head), 1.5; depth of peduncle, 2; its length, 1.7; pectoral, 0.8; ventral, 1; longest dorsal ray, 1.1; longest anal ray, 1.3; caudal broken.

Dorsal, 10; anal, 7. Scales very fine, about 150.

Head depressed; body compressed; vent behind a thick papilla, a little nearer ventral axil than anal origin; lower surface of head and breast flattish. Interorbital very slightly convex; snout rounded above, moderately tapering to a rounded point; eye slightly superolateral; orbital rim free; mouth inferior, on the lower surface of snout, curved, transverse; overhung in front by a fleshy, slightly curved membrane, immediately before which on the snout are four small barbels, the outer the longer; a spongy lip on the lower surface of mandible, at each corner of which on the snout are four small barbels, the outer the longer; gill-membranes joined to breast below the front of the pectoral base. Dorsal origin equidistant from base of caudal and front of eye; ventral origin slightly behind it; pectoral reaching about \( \frac{3}{4} \) the distance to ventral; ventral, \( \frac{3}{4} \) to anal; caudal broken, was probably truncate or subtruncate. Lateral line complete, slightly curved upward, in the center of peduncle.

A black stripe from shoulder onto base of caudal; dorsal crossed by two or three broken streaks; back behind dorsal with four cross blotches.

We have only this one specimen. The species is related to Homalosoma stenosoma Boulenger, 1901, Ningpo. Homalosoma is probably best considered a subgenus of Homaloptera, which genus is typically East Indian. The former is very divergent from Lepturichthys Regan, 1911, of which Homaloptera fimbriata Günther, 1888, from the Yangtze, is the type. Homaloptera abbreviata Günther, 1892, mountain streams running into the Min (tributary to the western Yangtze in Szechwan), approaches fimbriata.

References
