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A NEW PÆCILIID FISH OF THE GENUS *MICROPANCHAX*, FROM UBANGI

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Some time ago a collection of small freshwater fishes was received from Monsieur A. Baudon, administrator of the district of Ubangi-Shari, French Equatorial Africa. This collection was partially identified by Mr. J. T. Nichols and three new species were described in *Novitates*, No. 57, February, 1923. Recently I examined the collection to discover whether or not any pœciliid fishes were present. I found only two specimens. They are in very poor condition but, from the characters that can be made out, they seem to represent a new species.

***Micropanchax baudoni*, new species**

The holotype, A. M. N. H. No. 8151, from Fort Crampel, Gribingi River (Chad Basin), Ubangi-Shari, is 29 mm. in length from the snout to the caudal base. The body is well compressed, the flat head rather narrow. The mouth is small. The depth of the body is equal to the length of the head and is contained $3\frac{2}{3}$ times in the standard length. The diameter of the eye is equal to the snout and is contained $3\frac{1}{2}$ times in the head and $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in the interorbital width. The interorbital goes $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in the head length. The caudal peduncle is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as long as deep. The dorsal fin of the holotype (and of the paratype also) is so damaged that even under the microscope it is impossible to tell how many rays there are. The number is probably between 7 and 11. The dorsal origin is twice as far from the center of the eye as from the caudal base, over the center of the anal fin. There are 15 rays in the rounded anal, the longest ray being about equal to the head minus the snout. The appressed pectoral fin does not reach the origin of the pelvic. The caudal fin is damaged but it can be seen that it is rounded and about as long as the head. There are 23 scales in a lateral series and 6 rows between the dorsal and anal fins. Although some of the scales are lost their former position can be ascertained. There is no lateral line apparent. The color is brownish, the scales dark edged. A fine, continuous, dark line runs up the center of the median scale row from the caudal about to the pectoral tip. There is no suggestion of a pattern of coloration or of any red color. The anal and caudal fins, and probably also the dorsal, are finely speckled with black.

The single paratype, from the same locality, is 26 mm. to the caudal base. The proportions are identically the same as those of the type, but there are only 14 anal rays.

This little fish appears to differ from the several species of *Micropanchax*¹ in the position of the dorsal, the depth, the length of the head, and the number of the scales and anal rays. It is apparently approached most nearly by *Micropanchax loati* (Boulenger) from the White Nile and the Bahr-el-Gebel, from which it differs in the slightly larger scales, deeper caudal peduncle, longer head, and spotted fins. In the deep, hexagonal, exposed scale surfaces it resembles *M. katangæ* (Boulenger), *M. cabindæ* (Boulenger), and *Aplocheilichthys hutereaui* (Boulenger). This, with the similar scale and anal ray counts of the latter species, may really show a close relationship and indicate that *hutereaui* is not an *Aplocheilichthys*, as I have assumed. Of course, this is doubtful until specimens are examined.

Dr. J. Pellegrin has recently (1922, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, XLVII, p. 75) described *Haplochilus baudoni* from Fort Crampel specimens, presented to the Paris Museum by M. Baudon. Although Pellegrin does not mention characters by which the generic position of his species in the present system may be definitely ascertained, the posterior dorsal, the

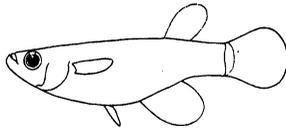


Fig. 1. *Micropanchax baudoni*. Outline of holotype. Dorsal restored. $\frac{1}{4}\times$.

flat head, the elongate body, and the pointed caudal indicate almost certainly that it is a member of the genus *Panchax* Cuvier and Valenciennes and should stand as *Panchax baudoni* (Pellegrin). No *Micropanchax* appears to have the red spots on the sides, mentioned by Pellegrin for his *H. baudoni*, which are so characteristic of many species of *Panchax* and *Aphyosemion* Myers.

In another paper (1921, Bull. Soc. Zool. France, XLVI, pp. 47-50), Dr. Pellegrin has recorded *Aplocheilichthys hutereaui* from Gribingi in the Chad Basin, and from Poko in the Congo basin. Is it possible that the specimens were really *Micropanchax baudoni*?

I have added a tentative list of the species of *Micropanchax*. Although I have seen only those marked with an asterisk, I feel sure that the others, with the possible exception of *johnstonii*, belong here.

**Micropanchax antinorii* (Vinciguerra), 1883; **M. baudoni* Myers, 1924; *M. cabindæ* (Boulenger), 1911; *M. dhonti* (Boulenger),

¹For the description of *Micropanchax*, see Copeia, No. 129, May 24, 1924.

1919; *M. johnstonii*¹ (Günther), 1893; *M. katangæ* (Boulenger), 1912; *M. kingii* (Boulenger), 1913; *M. loati* (Boulenger), 1901; **M. macrurus* (Boulenger), 1904; *M. moeruensis* (Boulenger), 1914; *M. myaposæ* (Boulenger), 1908; **M. pumilus* (Boulenger), 1906; **M. schoelleri* (Boulenger), 1904.

¹*Haplochilus atripinna* Pfeffer (1895, 'Deutsch-Ost-Africa,' III, Fische, p. 46), synonymized with this species by Boulenger, may be distinct.

