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A NEW PÆCILIID FISH OF THE GENUS *RIVULUS*, FROM BRITISH GUIANA

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In the collections brought back by Mr. Herbert Lang from the Mazaruni River, British Guiana, in 1922, are a few specimens of an apparently undescribed pœciliid fish of the genus *Rivulus*. Mr. Lang took them from holes in rocks in the main stream, at Mutusi Hole, about thirty miles up the river from Kartabo, after high water had subsided.

***Rivulus mazaruni*, new species**

DIAGNOSIS.—A *Rivulus* closely allied to *wrophthalmus*, with head $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$; depth $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6; eye $3\frac{1}{6}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$; scales 41 to 43 lateral, 9 to 10 transverse, and 33 to 35 predorsal; dorsal 7, inserted over the second or third from the last anal ray and 3 times as far from the eye as the caudal base; anal 12 to 13, originating midway between caudal base and pectoral insertion; coloration consisting of longitudinal lines; and in which the female has a caudal ocellus.

The holotype, A. M. N. H. No. 8346, from Mutusi Hole, Mazaruni River, British Guiana, October, 1922, is a female 58 mm. in length to the caudal base. The body is elongate, subcylindrical anteriorly, rather compressed posteriorly. The head is flattened on top, bulging at the lower sides, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as broad as deep. The flat area of the head runs back, narrowing, disappearing at the dorsal fin. The eyes are set very near the snout, somewhat above the lateral. The head length equals the depth and is contained $5\frac{1}{2}$ times in the length to caudal base. The orbit is greater than the length of the snout, entering the head $3\frac{1}{2}$ times and the interorbital $1\frac{1}{2}$ times. The latter is half the head length. The least depth of the caudal peduncle is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the head, and its length equals the head less the snout or the base of the anal fin. There are 7 rays in the dorsal fin, which originates 3 times as far from the posterior border of the eye as from the caudal base, over the next to the last anal ray. The anal fin has 12 rays and originates midway between the caudal base and the insertion of the pectoral fins, which are $\frac{9}{10}$ as long as the head and fail to reach the pelvic fins by $\frac{3}{4}$ their own length. The pelvics are very small and originate slightly nearer to the tip of the snout than to the caudal base. They do not reach the vent by their own length. There are 43 scales in a longitudinal series from the upper end of the gill opening to the base of the caudal rays and about 4 more on the latter. There are 35 scales between the large occipital scale and the dorsal fin and 9 lateral rows between the latter and the anal fin. The color is dusky brown with dark longitudinal lines running between the scale rows, or rather, on their edges. An indistinct, irregular, ocellated, black spot is present at the upper basal part of the caudal rays.

There are five paratypes, four females and one male, 24 to 44 mm. in length, all with the same data. Besides the variation noted in the diagnosis it may be noted that the pelvics of all the paratypes are larger than those of the holotype, nearly reaching the vent. In the largest paratype the dorsal originates three times as far from the MIDDLE of the eye as from the caudal, and in the smallest, from the ANTERIOR border of the eye. I find no sexual difference in the number of anal rays, as I recently did in *Rivulus dorni* from Rio de Janeiro (Myers, 1924, p. 588). There is a difference in color, however. As is usually the case with ocellated species, the male lacks this mark. His fins are darker and there is a pale stripe along the lower edge of the caudal, somewhat as described for *Rivulus tenuis* and *R. godmani* (Regan, 1912, pp. 499-500).

Eigenmann (1909, 1912) described six new species of *Rivulus* from British Guiana. Of these, Regan (1912) synonymizes *stagnatus*, *lanceolatus*, and *frenatus* with *urophthalmus* from Brazil, and *waimacui* with *holmia*. Henn (1916, p. 110) has shown that the two latter are distinct. I am of the opinion that *frenatus* also is distinct, despite Regan's comment (1912, p. 498).

Rivulus mazaruni is very close to *urophthalmus*, differing only in the smaller head, usually lesser depth, slightly more numerous predorsal scales, and the pale lower border of the male's caudal. *R. holmia* has a longer head, longer snout, fewer predorsal scales (see Henn, p. 110), and slightly more anal rays. *R. waimacui* differs from *mazaruni* in the slightly larger head, more anal rays and lateral scales, wider interorbital, and caudal ocellus.

Rivulus mazaruni is interesting as apparently being the first fish to be described from the Mazaruni River.

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