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## A NEW MELANOTÆNIIN FISH FROM QUEENSLAND

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### *Rhadinocentrus rhombosomoides*, new species

The type, No. 9246 American Museum of Natural History, collected in the Babinda Creek drainage, northeast Queensland, Australia, October, 1921, by H. C. Raven, is 42 mm. long to base of caudal. Depth in this length, 3.6; head, 3.5. Eye in head, 2.6; snout, 3.3; maxillary, 2.2; interorbital, 2.4; greatest breadth of body, 2.4; depth of peduncle, 2.4; its length, 1.7; pectoral, 1.4; ventral, 1.7; longest dorsal spine, 4; longest dorsal ray, 3; longest anal ray, 2.2; caudal lobe, 1.2.

Dorsal rays, V-13; anal rays, 19; none of the fin-rays stiff or pungent. Scales, 38; 11 rows between 1st dorsal and ventral.

Head flat across the top, narrowed below; body well compressed; line from snout to first dorsal almost straight. Lower jaw slightly included when the mouth is

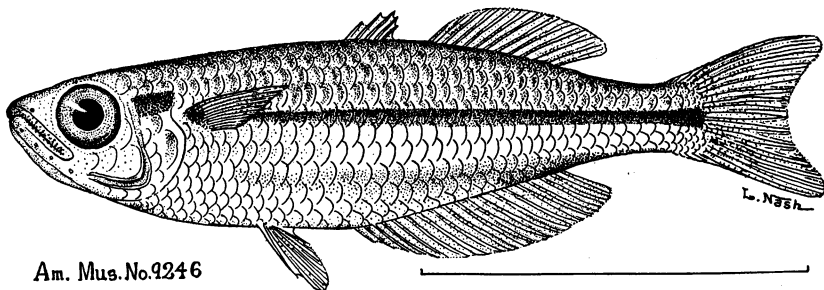


Fig. 1. *Rhadinocentrus rhombosomoides*, new species.

closed, its corners fitting into a re-entrance to either side of the expanded premaxillaries. Maxillary somewhat oblique, extending to under the front of the pupil, set with fine teeth which are exposed when the mouth is closed. Teeth rather uniformly small in bands on jaws and vomer. Gill-rakers short and blunt, ten or eleven on the lower limb of the first arch. Silvery in life. Color in alcohol brownish, paler below. A black stripe from the eye to the base of the caudal, broadest on the head and posteriorly.

This fish is quite unlike the type of *Rhadinocentrus*, *R. ornatus* Regan 1914, Trans. Zool. Soc., XX, p. 280, Pl. xxxi, fig. 1. It looks very like the young of *Rhombosoma novæ-guinæ* (fig. 6 of the same plate), but none of the fine rays are pungent. The genera allied to *Melanotænia*

are probably close, and presence or absence of pungent spines is one of the most definite, tangible criteria for separating them. The type is the largest of five specimens of our new species (down to 32 mm.) which were readily picked out of a considerable series of large and small *Melanotænia nigrans* with the same data, by means of their lack of spines, larger mouth, lesser depth (for individuals of comparable size).