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PIMELODUS PLATICIRRIS, NEW SPECIES, AND OTHER NOTES ON BRAZILIAN CATFISHES

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Further study of material from the Museu Paulista in The American Museum of Natural History (see Borodin, 1927, Amer. Mus. Novitates, Nos. 263 and 265) brings to light another undescribed species of catfish and certain interesting details concerning known forms.

Felichthys bagre (Linnæus)

Two easily distinguishable varieties are represented as follows:

A.—NARROWHEADED: head $4\frac{3}{4}$, its width $1\frac{1}{4}$ in the length; depth 5; dorsal filament reaches the beginning of the adipose fin; pectoral filament—the end of ventral fin. Barbels reach the end of the ventral fin.

B.—BROADHEADED: Head $4\frac{1}{4}$; its width $1\frac{1}{8}$ in length; depth $5\frac{1}{4}$; dorsal filament reaches adipose; pectoral filament— $\frac{2}{3}$ of the ventral fin. Barbels reach almost the end of the ventral fin.

An anatomical detail, elsewhere imperfectly described, may be noted. The long filament of the dorsal fin is not anatomically the continuation of its first spine, but is attached to the membrane as a whole, which unites the soft branched rays of the dorsal fin. In fact, in an alcoholic specimen the filament is always separated from the spine and connected with the first branched ray. In all descriptions of this fish this filament is spoken of as a prolongation of the first spine, which erroneous statement might result in confusion in determining the species.

Pimelodus clarias (Bloch)

Eigenmann (1912, 'The Fresh-water Fishes of British Guiana,' Mem. Carnegie Mus., V, pp. 172–175) recognizes two varieties of this very variable species, namely variety A. and variety B. Brazilian material examined by the writer falls into Eigenmann's variety B, and also represents a third variety closer to his variety A, as follows:

P. clarias Bloch, var. C. Borodin.—No. 8623, two specimens, 115 and 110 mm. long, Bahia, St. Francisco River, collected in 1914 by E. Garbe.

Head 3.85; depth 5. Eye $3\frac{1}{4}$.

D I, 6; A, 10.

Maxillary barbels reach middle rays of caudal; body spotted.

According to C. H. Eigenmann, the variety *A* has no spots and maxillary barbels extend beyond tip of caudal, while variety *B* has light spots, but its barbels do not reach the caudal. Thus variety *C* might be located between the two varieties established by Eigenmann. It has long barbels and strongly marked spots. Other specimens of *P. clarias* variety *C* are:

No. 8619, 1 spec., 105 mm. long; Franca, Prov. S. Paulo, collected by E. Garbe in 1910.

No. 8620, 2 spec., 62 and 122 mm. long, Pirapora, Prov. de Minas Geraes, St. Francisco River, collected by E. Garbe in 1915.

No. 8622, 2 spec., 75 and 100 mm., Franca, Prov. S. Paulo, Rio Grande, collected in 1910 by E. Garbe.

Pimelodus platycirris, new species

The unique type specimen, No. 8628, American Museum of Natural History, is 190 mm. long in standard length.

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Body high; head large; mouth wide; upper jaw projecting; lips thick; maxillary barbels flattened (not round), thick and directed forward; pectoral with serrated anterior and dentated posterior edge; adipose long; anal emarginate.

DESCRIPTION.—Body short and high; depth 4; head large, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in body; eyes large, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in head, 2 in snout; mouth wide, $3\frac{1}{4}$ in head's length; maxillary barbels thick, flattened (not round) and directed forward (not backward as in all other members of the subfamily Pimelodinae); they reach, if bent backward, to the anterior part of the anal fins. Triangular humeral process, long, $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of pectoral fin; dorsal fin high; pectoral spine flat, very strong, serrated on the anterior edge and sharply dentated on the posterior. Adipose long, 4 in body; anal emarginate; caudal deeply forked, lobes pointed, the upper being the longer.

Coloration: back dusky; belly white; sides with five longitudinal irregular rows of dark blotches.

Dorsal I, 6; anal, 10.

LOCALITY.—Salto de Pirassunungo, Rio Mogy Guassu, Prov. S. Paulo, Brazil, collected by A. Oliv. . . ira, January, 1908.

The nearest fish of the same genus is unquestionably *Pimelodus ortmanni* Haseman (1910–11, 'Some new species from the Rio Iguassu.' Ann. Carnegie Mus., VII, p. 379, Pl. I, fig. 2); but the new species differs from it in having higher body (depth 4 instead of 4.33–5.5), longer adipose fin (4 in body instead of 5), longer humeral process (2 in pectoral fin instead of $2\frac{1}{2}$).

Dr. J. D. Haseman, who described *P. ortmanni*, found it in Rio Iguassu, a tributary of Rio Paraná, southern Brazil. He does not mention the form and direction of maxillary barbels, which present a most important character of this species for distinguishing it not only from his species but also from all other species of the same genus.

Lophiosilurus alexandri Steindachner

Steindachner, 1877, Sitzber. Akad. Wiss. Wien, LXXIV, p. 154, Pl xv.

No. 8638, 2 specimens, 120 and 225 mm. long, Pirapora, Prov. de Minas Geraes, Rio San Francisco, collected by E. Garbe in 1912.

Eigenmann (1905-11, 'Rept. Princeton Exped. Patagonia,' III, 2, Zoölogy, p. 383) includes this under *Pseudopimelodus agassizi* (Steindachner). It is certainly not a *Pseudopimelodus*, being a fish of quite a different aspect. Because of its resemblance to *Lophius piscatorius* and its being a catfish, the name *Lophiosilurus* Steindachner is very appropriate.

Megalonema platycephalum Eigenmann

No. 8666, 1 specimen, 195 mm. long, Itaqui, Prov. de Rio Grande do Sul, collected by Garbe in 1914.

Because this specimen differs slightly from Eigenmann's type, which was described on the basis of small specimens (from 37-65 mm.), I give here some characters of this specimen.

Total length, 240 mm., length to the tip of the middle rays, 210 mm. Head 4, depth $6\frac{1}{2}$. Oval eyes $6\frac{1}{2}$ in head, located on the top of the head.

Dorsal I, 6; pectoral I, 13; anal 9; adipose $4\frac{1}{3}$ in the body. No spines with dorsal or pectoral fins. The first ray of dorsal fin not produced; no dentition of the pectoral fin. Maxillary barbels slightly flat, reaching the middle of ventral. Caudal forked, upper lobe the longer. Upper jaw produced. Characteristic coloration of the base of pectoral and ventral fins dark brown, their tips yellowish.

Rhamdia queleni (Quoy and Gaimard)

Fifteen specimens at hand of this species from Brazil differ from typical *R. queleni* in having the lower (not upper) lobe of the caudal the longer. Other characters which might be considered subspecific but are not so persistent and uniform are: larger eye, 2 in the snout, 5 in head (instead of 3 and 5.7-6) and less numerous rays in the anal fin,—8 or 9 in most cases (instead of 11). *R. queleni* is in general very variable.

In all specimens of this species examined a very conspicuous deep groove passes from the origin of the maxillary barbel straight backward just under the eye to the middle of the head. The maxillary barbel, which is comparatively thick, fits in this groove. It is true that such a groove is to be found also with other Pimelodinæ, but with the *Rhamdia* they seem to be particularly deep and therefore very conspicuous. No mention of this anatomical character, so far as I know, is made by authors.

Chasmocranus brevior Eigenmann

No. 9090, 1 specimen, 30 mm. long, Franca, Prov. S. Paulo, collected by O. Dreher in 1900.

Chasmocranus truncatorostris Borodin

No. 8640, 1 specimen, 110 mm. long, type, Col. Hansa Joinville, Prov. de St. Catharina, collected by W. Ehrhardt in 1908. (Described in Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 266.)

Acentronichthys leptos Eigenmann and Eigenmann

No. 8670, 2 specimens, 75 and 94 mm. long, Santos, collected by Fr. Adam in 1910.

The fishes of this genus of Eigenmann, as well as of *Heptapterus* and *Chasmocranus*, have a very characteristic head with swollen cheeks, pointed snout, and very small eyes, as in a mouse. It seems to be useful to apply to their description this character which, so far as I know, is not used by any of the authors.

Imparfinis Eigenmann, *Heptapterus* Bleeker, *Chasmocranus* Eigenmann, and *Acentronichthys* Eigenmann are closely related, and it is not so easy to distinguish some of them. This is especially true of *Imparfinis*, *Heptapterus* and *Chasmocranus*. Bearing in mind that each of the named genera have single or few species and that they differ very little in general characters, it seems to be more practicable to consider them as belonging to one and the same genus, *Heptapterus* Bleeker.