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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW LOACH FROM NORTH-EASTERN CHINA

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Lefua andrewsi,¹ new species.

Head $4\frac{1}{8}$; depth 7; D. II, 6; A. II, 6; P. I, 12; V. I, 6; scales about 104 in a median lateral series; head width about $1\frac{3}{4}$ in its length; head depth 2; snout $3\frac{1}{8}$; eye $4\frac{1}{8}$; maxillary $3\frac{1}{4}$; interorbital $3\frac{1}{10}$; depressed dorsal $1\frac{1}{4}$; depressed anal $1\frac{1}{8}$; least depth of caudal peduncle 2; caudal length $1\frac{1}{10}$; pectoral $1\frac{1}{8}$; ventral $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Body elongate, moderately slender, considerably depressed forward and becoming compressed posteriorly, edges all convex except slight keel forward above and below on caudal peduncle by rudimentary caudal rays to caudal base. Caudal peduncle strongly compressed, least depth little less than its length.

Head moderate, robust, broadly depressed, especially behind. Snout broad, obtuse, length $\frac{3}{4}$ its width. Eye small, hind edge about midway in head length. Maxillary small, about half-way to eye. Jaws even. Lips rather thin. Nasal barbel reaches eye center. Maxillary barbel to hind eye edge. Upper lateral barbel to eye center. Interorbital broadly though slightly convex.

Gill-opening lateral, long as snout.

Scales all small, not overlapping, in rather irregular distribution though close-set and with imbedded appearance; marginal radiating striæ 31 to 37; circuli moderately fine. No developed lateral line.

Dorsal origin little nearer that of pectoral than to caudal base, depressed fin slightly less than caudal base. Anal inserted little behind dorsal base, though little before depressed dorsal tip, depressed fin three-fourths to caudal base. Caudal rounded, median rays longest. Pectoral about half-way to ventral. Ventral reaches about three-fourths to anal. Vent close before anal.

Color in alcohol nearly sepia above, dusted very obscurely with darker. Dusky lateral band, rather obscurely defined, from each side of snout tip to eye, though below and over infraorbitals, back to caudal base. Posteriorly band much darker to blackish. Dark vertebral line on predorsal, slightly so behind dorsal. Barbel edges and lip margins dusky. Iris pale slaty. Dorsal and caudal grayish, both finely and obscurely spotted with dull dusky, only a distinct median black blotch on latter, reflected out on median rays basally. Other fins all pale, pectorals with few shadings.

Length, 52 mm.

Type, No. 7974, American Museum of Natural History. Shing Lung Shan, Eastern Tombs, China. August 7, 1921. Collected by The Third Asiatic Expedition of The American Museum of Natural History.

¹In recognition of Mr. Roy Chapman Andrews, leader of the Third Asiatic Expedition of The American Museum of Natural History.

This species is closely related to *Lefua costata* (Kessler) and appears to differ only in the color-pattern. Apparently the two forms occur associated, as they were received in the same lot. In *Lefua andrewsi* the broad and well-defined lateral band of dusky to blackish, which is reflected out on the median caudal rays, is diagnostic. In *Lefua costata* the scarcely evident lateral streak is replaced at the caudal base by a definite small rounded black spot, clearly defined and not reflected out on the median fin-rays.