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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CYPRINOID FISH FROM CHINA¹

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Recent examination of material sent to The American Museum of Natural History by its Third Asiatic Expedition has brought to light the following new cyprinoid fish with Indian affinities.

Chela nicholsi,³ new species

Head, 5; depth, $4\frac{1}{2}$; D. III, 7, 1; A. III, 25, 1; P. I, 14; V. I, 8; scales 64 in lateral line to caudal base, and 4 more on latter; 10 scales above lateral line to dorsal origin, 3 below to anal origin; 52 predorsal scales; head width, 3 in its length; head depth, $1\frac{1}{2}$; first branched dorsal ray, $1\frac{1}{2}$; first branched anal ray, $2\frac{1}{3}$; least depth of caudal peduncle, $2\frac{2}{3}$; caudal length, 1; pectoral, 1; ventral, $1\frac{3}{4}$; snout, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in head measured from upper jaw tip; eye, 4; maxillary, $3\frac{1}{10}$; interorbital, 4.

Body elongately compressed, dorsal and caudal edges convex, abdominal edge strongly trenchant from head to vent with scales not passing over ridge, and greatest depth about tips of depressed pectoral. Caudal peduncle well compressed, least depth $1\frac{1}{4}$ in its length.

Head attenuate, strongly compressed, flattened sides little more approximated below and profiles nearly alike, except lower little more inclined. Snout conic, long as wide. Eye advanced, little inferior in depth of head, center at first $\frac{2}{5}$ in length of head, long as snout, equals interorbital. Moderate adipose eyelid all around eye marginally. Mouth oblique, lower jaw slightly protruding and with slight symphyseal knob fitting into slight cavity in front of upper jaw. Maxillary slips largely below preorbital, reaches opposite eye, and expansion $4\frac{1}{2}$ in eye-diameter. Nostrils together; front one at least $\frac{2}{5}$ in snout, simple pore; hind one exposed as narrow crescent close behind. Interorbital convexly elevated. Suborbital chain narrow; preorbital width about $1\frac{1}{4}$ in eye.

Gill-opening forward midway in head. Gill-rakers 5 + 8, lanceolate, half length of gill-filaments, which $1\frac{1}{2}$ in eye. Pseudobranchiæ $1\frac{1}{2}$ in gill-filaments. Pharyngeal teeth 4, 4, 2—2, 3, 5, hooked, slender and most of larger at least with slight grinding surfaces.

Scales closely adherent, thin, papery, in even longitudinal series largely parallel with lateral line, little smaller on predorsal and caudal base. Row of medium-sized scales along anal base. Pointed scaly flap in ventral axil about $\frac{2}{5}$ length of fin. Head naked. Scales with 9 to 11 basal radiating striæ and 3 or 4 short marginal auxiliaries; apical circuli 55 to 62. Lateral line complete, strongly decurved, passes ventrals about lowest fourth in body depth and ascends midway along side of caudal

¹Publications of the Asiatic Expeditions of The American Museum of Natural History. Publication No. 9.

²Of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

³Named for Mr. John T. Nichols, of The American Museum of Natural History, in recognition of his paper on Chinese fishes (1918).

peduncle to caudal base. Tubes in lateral line well exposed, slender, simple, extend over first half to $\frac{2}{3}$ of scale exposures and each with slight terminal branch below.

Dorsal origin midway between gill-opening and caudal base, depressed fin reaching $\frac{1}{3}$ to caudal base. Anal begins little before end of depressed dorsal, first branched ray highest and forms apex of slight anterior lobe. Caudal strongly forked, lobes slender and sharply pointed, lower slightly longer. Pectoral long, acuminate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to ventral. Ventral fin inserted midway between snout tip and caudal base, fin reaching $1\frac{1}{2}$ to anal origin. Vent close before anal.

Color in alcohol, back dull olivaceous, sides and lower surface silvery white. Dorsal and caudal slightly grayish, other fins whitish. Iris silvery white.

Length, 177 mm.

TYPE.—No. 8254, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Ningkuo, An-hwei Province, China, September 15 to October 15, 1921, collection Third Asiatic Expedition.

Only one Chinese species of *Chela* has been described. Otherwise the genus is confined to the Indian region. The imperfectly known *Chela melanopus* Bleeker, based on a Chinese drawing (evidently a poor drawing), does not seem to be the same as the present species. Its fundamental characters, such as the very large head, posterior position of its dorsal, striate opercle and greatly fewer anal rays (could we accept them as accurate) would clearly define it as distinct. Moreover, the position of the eye and the lips, according to the artist's representation apparently fringed, convey the impression of a fish with an absolutely different physiognomy from the present specimen. Possibly the unusual black basal regions of the ventrals are the result of stain or other accident to the specimen from which the artist made his sketch.