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A New Melanotaeniid Fish from New Guinea

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There were a few fishes among herpetological material from New Guinea recently received by the Department of Amphibians and Reptiles of the American Museum from Father O. Shelly, among them a melanotaeniid referred to the genus *Centratherina* that appears to be new. Its first dorsal is placed farther forward than described for that genus, with origin equidistant between end of snout and a point on the peduncle appreciably behind the second dorsal, but much farther removed from the base of the caudal; base of last spine equidistant between end of snout and base of caudal, slightly in advance of anal origin. Depth in standard length, 4. Dorsal IV-I, 11 or 12; anal, I, 20. Scales 37 or 38. A single specimen of 65 mm. standard length, presumably young.

Centratherina tenuis, new species

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE: A.M.N.H. No. 20211, from Kondiu, Wahgi Valley, New Guinea, presumably in 1955, collected by Father O. Shelly.

Length to base of caudal, 65 mm. Depth in this length, 4; head, 4.4. Eye in head, 3; snout, 3.2; interorbital, 2.8; maxillary, 2.7; greatest width (at hind head), 2.4; depth of peduncle, 2.5; its length, 1.5; initial spine of first dorsal (the longest and strongest), 1.9; of second dorsal, 1.9; longest dorsal ray, 2.6; anal spine, 3; longest anal ray, 2.6; pectoral, 1.4; ventral, 1.6; caudal, 1.

Dorsal IV-I, 11 or 12 (last three spines of first dorsal stiff but weak and very slender; some of rays broken); anal, I, 20. Scales, 37 or 38.

Head pointed, head and body well compressed, the upper and lower profiles about equally convex, greatest depth at dorsal origin. The back

curves down to over the eye and is then slightly concave to the somewhat raised end of the snout. Base of last dorsal spine equidistant between end of snout and base of caudal, slightly in advance of the anal origin. Base of anal a little more than one-third of standard length.

Interorbital flat, slanting down a little towards snout. Maxillaries not quite reaching to under front border of eye, their central, upper, forwardly directed part short, convex above, and deep, the tooth-bearing surface tapering at the sides downward and backward into that of the lower parts, only the edge of which is exposed, without abrupt angular change in direction. (In *Rhombotractus*—*R. goldiei*, following Weber and de Beaufort, specimen compared—the central forwardly directed part is flatter and broad, differentiated by a notch at the side from, and making a conspicuous angle with, the backwardly slanting parts.) Lower jaw very slightly shorter than, and closing within, the upper. No teeth in the roof of the mouth.

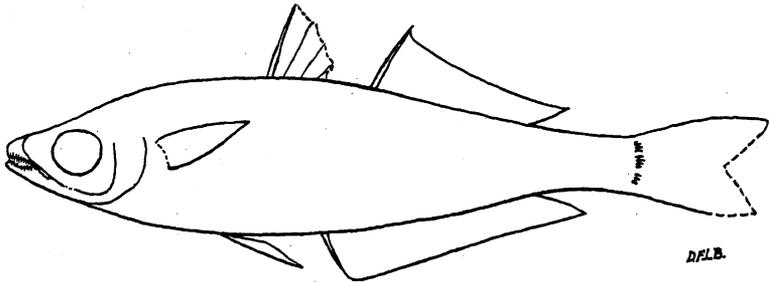


FIG. 1. *Centratherina tenuis* type. Standard length, 65 mm.

Ventrals not quite reaching anal, their origin equidistant from end of snout and middle of anal base.

About 22 scales before the first dorsal and 10 longitudinal rows between it and the anal. Many scales lost; those remaining with entire, some with slightly wavy, edges.

Color gray above, white below; an inconspicuous longitudinal blackish band in the middle of the side, well defined posteriorly. Upper fins dark, lower pale.

A specimen of *Centratherina crassispinosa* of only 61 mm. length, with which it has been compared, has the posterior dorsal, and the body form described for and expected in, an adult. Its depth is 3 in standard length; anal base, 2.4; anal origin well before that of first dorsal. Origin of first dorsal equidistant from base of caudal and hind margin of eye; base of its last spine equidistant from base of caudal and hind edge of opercle.