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XII.—*Notes on some Loricariid Fishes, with Descriptions of Two new Species.* By C. TATE REGAN, B.A.

IN my monograph of the Loricariidæ I followed Steindachner in placing *Plecostomus horridus*, Kner, in the synonymy of *P. emarginatus*, Cuv. & Val., and Eigenmann in uniting *P. tenuicauda*, Steind., to the same species. Although I have never seen specimens of the first-named, I am now of the opinion that it is probably distinct from *P. emarginatus*, whilst I am quite sure that *P. tenuicauda* should be recognized as a valid species. *P. horridus* does not seem to have the deeply emarginate caudal fin with produced lobes which is so characteristic of the other two species, whilst *P. tenuicauda* may at once be separated from *P. emarginatus* by the greater length of the base of the dorsal fin. The following description is based on three specimens, from 200 to 380 mm. in total length, from Baranquilla, Colombia.

Plecostomus tenuicauda.

Plecostomus tenuicauda, Steind. Denkschr. Ak. Wien, xxxix. 1878, p. 40, pl. vi., and xlii. 1880, p. 63.

Plecostomus emarginatus (part.), Eigenm. & Eigenm. Occ. Pap. Cal. Ac. i. 1890, p. 400; Regan, Trans. Zool. Soc. xvii. 1904, p. 210.

Depth of body 5–6 in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{3}{4}$. Depth of head $1\frac{2}{3}$ – $1\frac{2}{3}$ in its length, breadth of head $1\frac{1}{8}$ – $1\frac{1}{6}$, length of snout $1\frac{4}{5}$ –2, diameter of eye 6– $8\frac{1}{2}$, interorbital width $2\frac{1}{5}$ – $2\frac{1}{3}$. Length of mandibular ramus 3– $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the interorbital width; rami of both jaws subequal, with 24–32 teeth on each side. Barbel $1\frac{1}{3}$ – $1\frac{2}{3}$ the diameter of eye. Snout narrowed anteriorly; supraorbital edges not or scarcely raised; opercular bones without marginal bristles; temporal plate not distinctly carinate; supraoccipital with strong median ridge extending posteriorly on to the well-developed pointed occipital process, which is bordered on each side by a lateral scute or pair of scutes and at the apex by a median scute. Scutes spinulose, the posterior ones usually weakly carinate, 28–29 in a longitudinal series, 8 between dorsal and adipose fin, 14–15 between anal and caudal. Lower surface of head and abdomen almost completely covered with small granular scales. Dorsal I 7, the first ray as long as the head, when laid back extending to the third or fourth scute behind the last ray, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{5}$ as long. Length of base of dorsal equal to or a little greater than its distance from the adipose fin, which is well developed. Anal I 4.

Pectoral spine extending to anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ of ventral. Caudal deeply emarginate, the median rays not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as the outermost, which are $\frac{2}{5}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the fish. Caudal peduncle 4–4 $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep, anteriorly with the scutes of the lowest (fifth) series nearly flat and those of the fourth series strongly angulated. Numerous rather small or oblong purplish spots on head, body, and fins, those on the dorsal in 2 or 3 series on each interradiial membrane.

Magdalena and Cauca Rivers.

Professor Eigenmann ('Science,' xxi. pp. 792–795) takes exception to my name *Plecostomus Garmani* for the species which he erroneously identified with *P. lima*, Lütken. He had given the name *P. lima atropinnis* to a specimen, presumably of this species, with the fins uniformly dark brown, and he says "Regan considers this variety distinct from *lima* and names it *Garmani*. Of course, if the variety *atropinnis* is distinct from the present form it must go by the older name *atropinnis* and not *Garmani*." This is hardly a correct statement of the case. I reserve the name *atropinnis* for a fish which I have never seen, with the fins uniformly dark brown*. This fish will probably prove to be specifically identical with *P. Garmani* (*P. lima* (non Lütken), Eigenm.), and if it be worthy of recognition as a variety, its name will be *P. Garmani*, var. *atropinnis*; if it should prove to be specifically distinct from both *P. Garmani* and *P. lima*, its name would be *P. atropinnis*.

The application of the generic name *Ancistrus* seems to need some explanation. As defined and restricted by Gill this genus includes species with an eight-rayed dorsal fin and with the interoperculum armed with a tuft of rather long and slender spines with hooked apices. This definition appears to me applicable only to *A. brachyurus*, *A. scaphirhynchus*, and *A. medians* of the species described by Kner. *A. cirrhosus*, afterwards selected by Bleeker as the type of the genus, has rather short and stout interopercular spines, curved towards the apices, which can scarcely be called "hooked." Dr. Gill's diagnosis was evidently chiefly based on the specimens from Trinidad which he identified with *A. guacharote*, Cuv. & Val., which Günther named *Chætostomus trinitatis*, and which have now been lost. In view of

* I consulted more than one authority as to the correctness of this course, as I did not wish to dedicate a species to Dr. Garman which might be considered a synonym.

the last mentioned fact, and of the insufficiency of the specific diagnosis, I left *C. trinitatis* as a doubtful synonym of *A. guacharote*; but it is quite probable that this species may prove to be nearer to *A. megacephalus* or *A. Bachi*, since Dr. Gill does not make any mention of the bristles which are found external to the interopercular spines in *A. guacharote* and its allies.

The British Museum has recently received examples of a new species of this genus, which I propose to call

Ancistrus Bovallii, sp. n.

Allied to *A. Schomburgkii*, Günth. Depth of body about 7 in the length, length of head 3. Head nearly as broad as long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ – $2\frac{3}{4}$ as long as deep. Diameter of eye 6 – $7\frac{1}{2}$ in the length of head, interorbital width about 3, length of snout nearly 2. Snout broad, rounded; supraorbital edges not raised; supraoccipital flat, without median ridge; temporal plates not carinate; interoperculum armed with about 15 slender but rather short spines, with curved tips. Mouth small, with only 5 or 6 teeth on each side in both jaws; length of mandibular ramus considerably less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the interorbital width. Scutes spinulose, not carinate, 24 to 26 in a longitudinal series, 7 to 9 between dorsal and adipose fin, 11 to 13 between anal and caudal. Supraoccipital bordered posteriorly by a pair of scutes. Lower surface of head and abdomen naked (in the young). Dorsal I 7, the first ray about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head, the length of the base less than the distance from adipose fin. Anal I 4–5. Pectoral spine extending to the base of ventral. Caudal obliquely emarginate. Caudal peduncle about 3 times as long as deep. Olivaceous, usually with darker transverse bars or irregular marbling; fins usually with dark spots.

Seven specimens, measuring up to 55 mm. in total length, from the Kaat River, tributary to the Treng River, Upper Potaro, British Guiana, collected and presented to the British Museum by Dr. C. Bovallius, who captured them "in a rapid on the under side of stones."

Eigenmann has proposed to restrict the name *Xenocara* to the species without tentacles on the snout, i. e. *X. latifrons* and *X. gymnorhynchus*. He would use the name *Ancistrus* for the species with tentacles; but, as has been shown above, this is inadmissible, and as it seems useful to distinguish these species by a subgeneric name, I propose *Thysanocara* for *Xenocara cirrhosum* and its allies.

Several recently acquired specimens of *X. brevipinnis*, Regan, from 'Theresopolis are a little smaller than the typical example, from which they differ slightly. They seem to show that the type represents the extreme of variation in respect of two or three characters, so that it appears useful to give a description based on these examples.

Xenocara brevipinnis.

Depth of body nearly 6 in the length, length of head $2\frac{2}{3}$ -3. Head as long as or a little longer than broad and $2-2\frac{1}{4}$ as long as deep. Diameter of eye 6-7 in the length of head, interorbital width $2\frac{3}{5}-2\frac{5}{8}$, length of snout 2. Length of mandibular ramus $1\frac{2}{3}-2\frac{1}{4}$ in the interorbital width. Snout with tentacles. Interoperculum with 12 to 17 spines, the longest $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of head. 23-26 scutes in a longitudinal series, 6 or 7 between dorsal and adipose fin, 11 or 12 between anal and caudal. Dorsal I 7, the first ray $\frac{2}{3}-\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head, the last $\frac{2}{3}$ as long, when laid back not reaching the spine of the adipose fin, which is preceded by a keel formed by a single scute. Length of base of dorsal equal to its distance from the anterior part of the spine of the adipose fin. Anal I 4. Pectoral spine extending to base of ventral or a little beyond. Caudal obliquely truncate, the lowest ray $\frac{3}{4}-\frac{4}{5}$ the length of head. Caudal peduncle $2\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{3}{4}$ as long as deep. Olivaceous, fins dark spotted.

Loricaria Steinbachi, sp. n.

Length of head $3\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{3}{4}$ in the length of the fish. Head as broad as long (σ) or a little longer than broad (φ) and twice as long as deep. Diameter of eye 8 or 9 in the length of head, interorbital width 3, length of snout nearly 2. Sides of the head in the male armed with well-developed bristles. Snout obtuse; supraorbital edges not or scarcely raised; orbital notch broad; occipital plate flat, without keels; lips papillose, with short marginal fringes; lower lip moderately broad, rounded; barbels very short; teeth well developed, 6-9 on each side in both jaws. 30 scutes in a longitudinal series, 19-21+9-11, not carinate except for the lateral keels, which are obsolete anteriorly and posteriorly are obtuse, but remain separate throughout. Lower surface of head and abdomen naked, except for a series of about 8 plates on each side between pectoral and ventral. First dorsal ray about $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of head; pectoral spine extending to base of ventral or slightly beyond; ventrals rounded, the spine not produced, the first or first and second

branched rays the longest; caudal truncate, the outer rays not produced. Breadth of body at level of first anal ray $2\frac{3}{4}$ –3 in the distance from that point to the caudal. Back with 4 dark cross-bands, the first through the base of the dorsal fin; traces of dark spots on the fins.

Three specimens, up to 100 mm. in total length, from Salta, Argentina, collected by Herr J. Steinbach.

Allied to *L. latirostris*, which it resembles in the notable differentiation of the sexes, the males having a broader head and more obtuse snout than the females, and also the sides of the head armed with bristles and the whole upper surface of the body and of the pectoral fins rough, spinulose.

The preceding notes may be summarized thus :—

Plecostomus horridus, Kner, is probably, and *P. tenuicauda*, Steind., which is redescribed, is certainly distinct from *P. emarginatus*, C. & V.

Plecostomus Garmani, Regan, is not equivalent to *P. lima atropinnis*, Eigenm., but to *P. lima* (non Lütken), Eigenm.

Ancistrus was restricted to *A. medians*, Kner, and its allies by Gill, not by selection of a typical species, but by diagnosis; a new species of this genus (*A. Bovallii*) is described.

Thysanocara is proposed as a new subgeneric name for *Xenocara cirrhosum* and its allies. *X. brevipinnis*, Regan, is redescribed.

A new *Loricaria*, *L. Steinbachi*, is described.

XIII.—*Descriptions of Two new Species of Pterygistes.*

By G. E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON.

I FIND amongst the bats in the British Museum of Natural History examples of two hitherto undescribed species of *Pterygistes*—the one from Madeira, the other from the North-western Himalayas. In each of these the skull is very distinct from that of any known form, but I do not attribute great importance to the dimensions of the body, those of spirit-specimens being subject to distortion. The two species may be described as follows :—

1. *Pterygistes madeiræ*, sp. n.

This bat is similar to *P. Leisleri*, Kuhl, of Britain, but perhaps smaller and with quite different skull. The colour is