

**RECORD OF *MULLOIDICHTHYS SAMOENSIS* (GUNTHER)
AND *OSTORHYNCHUS ENDEKATAENIA* (BLEEKER) FROM
THE ORISSA COAST**

DURING our study of the Orissa shore fishes, a specimen of *Mulloidichthys samoensis* (Gunther) and three specimens of *Ostorhynchus endekataenia* (Bleeker) were recognised. Though both these specimens are widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific region and have been recorded from the Laccadives (Balan, 1958) and the Andamans (Herre, 1941) respectively, they have not so far been reported from either the East or West coast of India. The present record extends their range of distribution to the Orissa coast. A brief description of the specimens in our collection is given below :

1. *Mulloidichthys samoensis* (Gunther)

Mulloides samoensis Gunther, 1873, *Journ. Mus. Godeffray*, 2 (*Fische der Sudsee*, pt. 3), p. 57, pl. 43, fig. B.

D₁ VII. D₂I. 8 ; A. I. 7 ; P. 16 ; L.I. 35+3 ; Ltr. $\frac{2}{1}$ G.R. 7+21.
6

Depth 4.3 ; head 3.0 ; length of caudal peduncle 4.0 ; all in standard length. Eye 4.0 ; length of snout 2.1 ; interorbital width 4.5 ; length of barbel 1.6 ; all in head length. Eye in snout 1.9. Interorbital width 1.2 in eye diameter. Barbels reaching pre-opercular margin. Scales large, finely ctenoid. Lateral line parallel with dorsal profile. Caudal (damaged) forked.

A black blotch on side of body below spiny dorsal fin. A black blotch on inner side of operculum bordering pseudobranchiae.

Material : One specimen, 93 mm. S.L. ; Gopalpur ; 29.11.62 ; G. Ramakrishna ; Z.S.I. Reg. No. F. 5175/2.

2. *Ostorhynchus endekataenia* (Bleeker)

Apogon endekataenia Bleeker, 1852, *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Indie*, 3, p. 449.

D₁ VII, D₂ I. 9 ; A. II. 8 ; P. 14 ; L. 1. 24 ; Ltr. 2/6 ; G.R. 3+13.

Depth 2.8 ; head length 2.6-2.7 ; length of caudal peduncle 3.3-3.5 ; all in standard length. Eye 2.9-3.0 ; snout 4.5-4.9 ; interorbital distance 5.2-5.4 ; all in head length. Eye in snout 0.6-0.7. Five horizontal brown stripes extend from head to caudal peduncle or caudal fin ; at the midbase of the caudal fin the median stripe is enlarged forming an elongated diffuse spot, a streak passes from this spot to fork of caudal fin. A brown blotch on edge of opercle. Soft dorsal with a black bar near base and almost parallel with base, and a similar one on anal.

Material : 3 specimens, 68 mm., 73 mm. and 73 mm. S.L. ; Puri ; 14.11.1962 ; G. Ramakrishna ; Z.S.I. Reg. No. F. 5173/2.

Remarks : Weber and de Beaufort (1929) correctly treated *Apogon endekataenia* as described by Day (1878) as a synonym of *A. novemfasciatus* (C.V.). Smith (1961) wrongly treated the type of *Apogon melanotaenia* Regan (1905) based on specimens from India (Karachi and Nicobar) as a synonym of *Ostorhynchus endekataenia* (Bleeker). This species, however, differs from *O. endekataenia* in the arrangement of the stripes and the wider interorbital space. The streak from the caudal blotch to fork of caudal fin is absent in *Apogon melanotaenia* Regan.

We wish to express our thanks to Dr. A. P. Kapur and Dr. A. G. K. Menon, Zoological Survey of India for their encouragement.

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