

**BRACHIRUS PANOIDES BLEEKER AND PARDACHIRUS
MARMORATUS (LACÉPÈDE) (SOLEIDAE : PISCES), NEW RECORDS
FOR THE INDIAN COAST**

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DURING our study of the fish collections from the Orissa coast, specimens of *Brachirus panoides* Bleeker and *Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacépède) were recognized. These species, belonging to the family Soleidae, were collected by Dr. N. Annandale from the Puri beach of Orissa coast, in the year 1909. The occurrence of these two species on the Indian coast has not hitherto been recorded.

Brachirus panoides Bleeker has a very limited distribution, being recorded from Singapore, Sumatra, Borneo and Siam (Weber & de Beaufort, 1929), whereas *Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacépède) has been recorded from the East coast of Africa, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman (Norman, 1928 and Smith 1961) and Ceylon (de Silva, 1956).

Norman (1928) records five species of *Brachirus* Swainson viz., *B. commersoni* (Lacépède), *B. albomaculatus* (Kaup), *B. orientalis* (Bl. Schn.), *B. pan* (Ham.), *B. macrolepis* (Blkr.) and only one species of *Pardachirus* viz., *P. pavoninus* (Lacépède) from Indian waters. This distributional record of these two species from the Orissa coast brings the total number of *Brachirus* and *Pardachirus* from Indian waters to six species and two species respectively. Since *Brachirus panoides* and *Pardachirus marmoratus* are being recorded for the first time from the Indian coast, important meristic counts and morphometric characters for the specimens are given below.

***Brachirus panoides* Bleeker**

(Fig. 1)

Synaptura panoides Bleeker, *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Indie* II, 1851, p. 440. *Verh. Bat. Gen.*, 24. *Pleuronect.* 1852, p. 30 Günther, 1862. *Cat. Fish.*, 4 p. 486. Weber and de Beaufort, 1929, *Fish. Indo-Austr. Arch.*, 5, p. 174.

Brachirus panoides Bleeker, 1866-1872, *Atl. chth.*, 6, p. 21.

D. 81 ; A. 63 ; P. dextr. 3 ; sin. 4 ; C. 16 ; L. 1. 110.

Depth 2.8, head 6.7 in total length. Eye small, separated by a scaly, concave interorbital space, 1.6 in eye diameter. Anterior part of head on blind side covered by papillae, arranged in rows. Scales ctenoid on both sides, those of anterior part of body not larger than the posterior ones. Vertical fins scaly. Dorsal and anal rays divided. Posterior rays of vertical fins completely joined to caudal which is

rounded. Pectorals rudimentary. Colour in alcohol brownish red with six pairs of faint blackish lines crossing the body in its whole width.

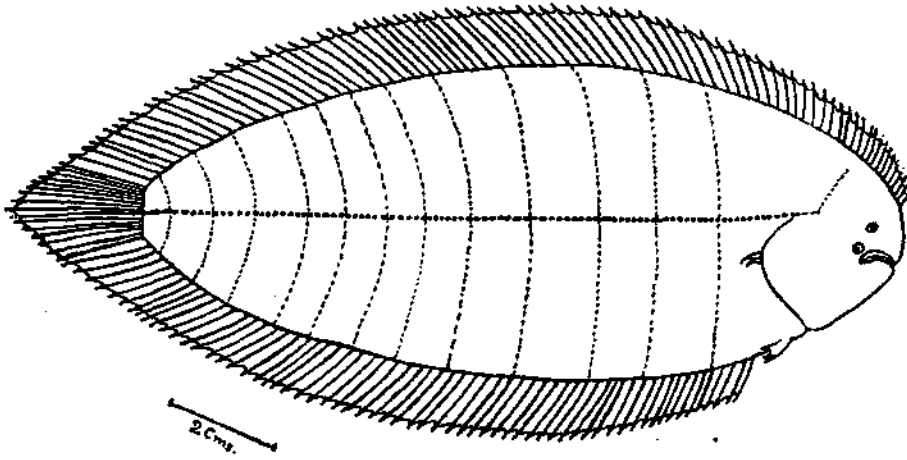


FIG. 1. *Brachirus panoides* Bleeker

Material : One specimen, 161 mm. total length, Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. F 5013/2.

***Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacépède)**

(Fig. 2)

Achirus marmoratus Lacépède, 1802, *Hist. nat. Poiss.* 4, pp. 658 & 660.

Pardachirus marmoratus Günther, 1862, *Cat. Fish.*, 4, p. 478. Norman, 1928, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 30 p. 186. de Silva, 1956, *Ceylon. J. Sci.* (c) 7(2), p. 196. Smith, 1961, *Sea Fish Southern Africa*, p. 161.

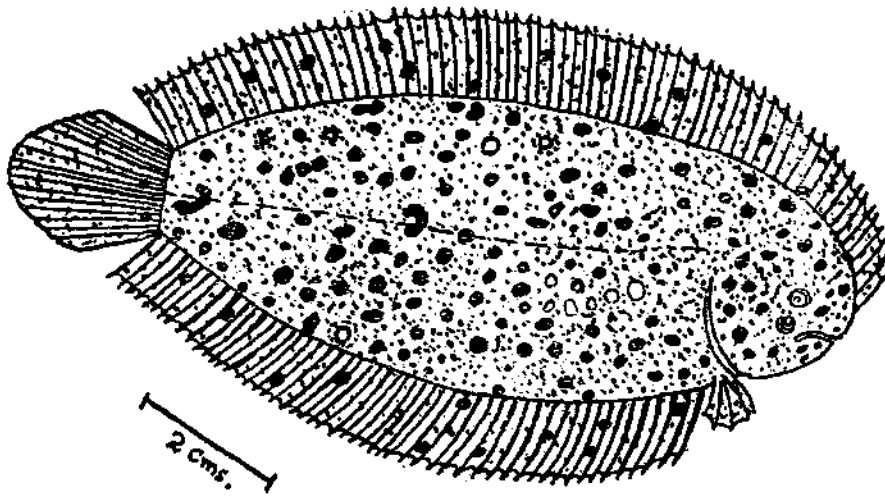


FIG. 2. *Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacépède)

D. 68 ; A. 53 ; C. 18 ; L. 1, 100.

Depth 2.5, head 4.6 in total length. Eyes small, the upper slightly in advance of the lower. Blind side of the head covered with small papillae, forming a fringe along the lower profile and opercular borders. A straight line on both sides, besides a second lateral line on the blind side. Scales cycloid. Dorsal commencing on snout and each dorsal ray with a pore at the base. Vertical fin rays branched. Pectorals absent, ventrals asymmetrical. Caudal rounded. Colour in alcohol brown with number of irregular dark-edged areas of dark brown usually with dark central spot intermingled with black margined creamy patches all over the body. Fins with numerous black dots.

Material : One specimen 114 mm. total length, Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. 4977/2.

SUMMARY

The two flatfishes, *Brachirus panoides* Bleeker, and *Pardachirus marmoratus* (Lacépède), belonging to the family Soleidae, are recorded for the first time from the Indian coast. Description of these two species is given to facilitate comparison.

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