

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE INDIAN CYPRINID FISH, *CIRRHINUS FASCIATUS* JERDON (1849), WITH A NEW NAME FOR *BARBUS FASCIATUS* BLEEKER (1853).—Jerdon (1948, Madras Jour. Litt. and Sci., 15: 305) placed a heterogeneous assemblage of eleven species under the genus *Cirrhinus* Oken. One of these, *Cirrhinus fasciatus*, he described from the headwaters of the Cauvery River and from Malabar. Günther (1868) listed *C. fasciatus* Jerdon as one of the insufficiently characterized species of *Tylognathus* Heckel. Although brief, the description of *C. fasciatus* is sufficiently clear to help in assigning the species to its proper systematic position. The writer's extensive collections from Jerdon's type localities have facilitated this task. Undoubtedly, *C. fasciatus* and two other nominal species, namely *Labeo melanampyx* Day (1865) from the Travancore Hills and *Barbus grayi* Day (1867) from the Bowany and Kallar rivers (tributaries of the Cauvery River) at the base of the Neilgherries, represent one and the same species. Day (1876) seems to have been aware of this, for he recognized *Barbus melanampyx*, with *C. fasciatus* and *B. grayi* as its synonyms. Evidently the earlier-proposed name *fasciatus* was not used to designate the species, as he considered it preoccupied by *Barbus fasciatus* Bleeker (1853, Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Indies, 5: 190) from the East Indies.

*C. fasciatus* Jerdon and *B. fasciatus* Bleeker are at present both referable to the genus *Puntius* Hamilton, but are specifically distinct. It is highly doubtful whether any eventual splitting of the genus *Puntius* on characters like the barbels would separate these species. Hence, under the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, *fasciatus* Jerdon, which has priority over *fasciatus* Bleeker, will have to be considered as valid. This leaves Bleeker's

species without a name, for which the specific name *Puntius eugrammus* sp. nov., is proposed here. For a detailed description of *Puntius eugrammus* sp. nov., reference may be made to the description of *Puntius fasciatus* (Bleeker) as given by Weber and de Beaufort (1916, Fish. Indo-Austral. Archipel., 3: 184-185).

*Puntius fasciatus* (Jerdon)

*Cirrhinus fasciatus* Jerdon 1849, Madras Jour. Litt. and Sci., 15: 305 (type locality, Malabar).

*Labeo melanampyx* Day 1865, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 298 (type locality, Mundakayam, Travancore).

*Puntius melanampyx* Day 1865, Fish. Malabar: 210, pl. 16, fig. 1.

*Barbus grayi* Day 1867, Proc. Zool. Soc. London: 293 (type locality, Bowany and Kallar rivers at the base of the Neilgherries).

*Barbus arulius* (nec Jerdon) Günther 1868, Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus., 7: 133.

*Barbus melanampyx* Day 1876, Fish. India: 570, pl. 139, fig. 1. Beaven, 1877, Handbook Freshwater Fish. India: 49. Day, 1889, Fauna Brit. India, Fish, 1: 316. Jenkins, 1909, Rec. Ind. Mus., 3: 298. Pillay, 1929, Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 33: 357. John, 1936, *ibid*, 38: 711. Misra, 1938, Rec. Ind. Mus., 40: 258.

*Barbus* (*Puntius*) *melanampyx* Hora and Law 1941, Rec. Ind. Mus., 43: 793. Silas, 1949, Jour. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., 48: 793; 1951, *ibid*, 49: 673; 50: 326.

The natural distribution of *Puntius fasciatus* (Jerdon) in Peninsular India is the upper reaches of the Cauvery drainage and further southward to the Cape; also the western watersheds draining South Kanara, Malabar, and Travancore-Cochin.—E. G. SILAS, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, La Jolla, California.