

NOTES ON FISHES ALONG THE RIVER KWAE NOI
IN WESTERN THAILAND. 2.

by

PALLE JOHNSEN

*Zoological Institute, Århus University,
Denmark*

In this bulletin Vol. 20 No. 3 1963 appeared the first notes on the fishes collected along the river Kwae Noi in Western Thailand, (Johnsen 1963) as a result of the author's partaking in the *Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition*. The reader is referred to the general remarks in the first notes cited above.

Below is an annotated list of some further species from the Kwae Noi, which seems to be rather unknown ichthyologically.

NOTOPTERIDAE

Notopterus notopterus (Pallas).

A couple were secured from the Kwae Noi, from which river the species does not seem to be reported.

Material: No. 146. Kwae Noi at Sai Yok 17.12.61. TL 293 mm
— 184. — — — — 24.12.61. — 320 —

The undetermined *Notopterus* without spots referred to in my first paper (Johnsen 1963) proved to be *N. chitala* (Hamilton).

CYPRINIDAE

Danio regina Fowler. Fig. 1 and 2

A number were caught in a small brook, flowing into Huey Menam Noi, with a waterfall at its outlet.

My specimens have, like the specimens mentioned as collected in 1932 in the locality of the type (SMITH 1945), a conspicuous black spot just behind upper end of gill opening, that is of a black colour in my formaldehyde preserved material as seen from Fig. 2. In a colour sketch made in the field with fresh material this spot is blue like the stripes along the side of body.

According to the description (*Smith 1945*) my material must be classed among this species, but the preorbital "spine" mentioned by *Smith* is not present as a proper spine, not being pointed, whereas all the 5 specimens collected had a distinct bony, preorbital projection (Fig. 1). In the related genus *Daniops Smith (l. c.)* records the presence of a preorbital shelf, which in one and the same species may be rectangular or with rounded corners, or produced into a point. As such a variation may occur in this respect within a species of a closely related genus I have without hesitation referred my material to *Danio regina*, even if the preorbital projection is not pointed as a spine, which otherwise should be the case in *D. regina*.

When wading in the stream, this species came in numbers towards me and nipped my naked legs. A local Thai gave the trivial name as *pla kim*.

Material: No. 580. Brook on right bank of Huey

	Menam Noi	2.1.62.	TL 49 mm
— 581.	same	same	TL 42 mm
— 582.	—	—	TL 33 mm
— 583.	—	—	TL 39 mm
— 584.	—	—	TL 42 mm
— 585.	—	—	TL 40 mm

Danio pulcher Smith.

Previously recorded from Central and Southern Thailand (*Smith 1945*). My specimens indicate that a wide distribution within Thailand might be expected.

A local man gave me the trivial name in Thai as *pla mād*, at the same time telling me, that it did not occur in the river Kwae Noi, but in small brooks. This was true as my specimens were collected in a small brook running into Kwae Noi. This brook was in the dry season nearly dried up, but still just flowing. Some specimens were collected in an artificial pond on a farm.

Material: No. 634. Brook on right bank of Kwae

	Noi near Sai Yok Falls	5.1.62.	TL 39 mm
— 568.	Pond at Thung Kang Yang,		
	E. of Sai Yok	28.12.61.	TL 24 mm
— 569.	same	same	TL 24 mm
— 570.	—	—	TL 19 mm
— 571.	—	—	TL 19 mm
— 3018.	—	—	TL 19 mm

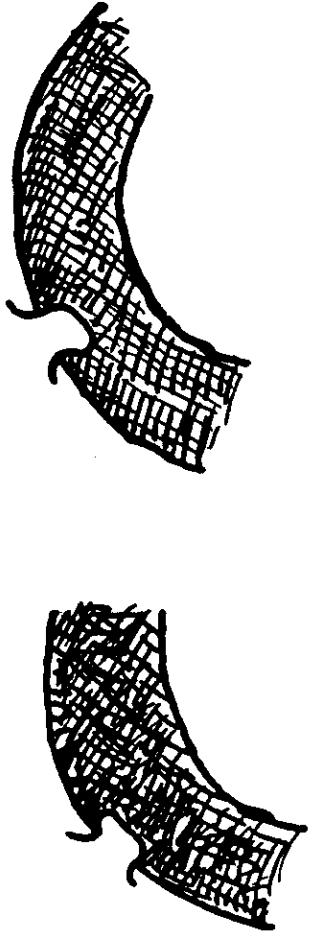


Fig. 1 Preorbital, bony projection in two individuals of *Danio regina*. P.J. del.



Fig. 2 *Danio regina*. Formaldehyde preparation, P.J. phot.

724



Rasbora argyrotaenia (Bleeker).

Material :	No. 108 a.	Kwae Noi at Sai Yok	13.12.61.	TL 85 mm
	— 108 b.	same	same	TL 84 mm
	— 107.	—	—	TL 91 mm
	— 88.	—	—	TL 78 mm
	— 89.	—	—	TL 61 mm
	— 3016.	1	—	TL 68 mm

Rasbora trilineata Steindachner

Material :	No. 3008.	Brook near Sai Yok	14.12.62.	TL 35 mm
------------	-----------	--------------------	-----------	----------

Rasbora cromiei Fowler.

In the description and figure given by *Fowler* (1938) there is no reference to a dark line above anal fin — so often found in several species of *Rasbora*. All my specimens had such a longitudinal blackish pigmented area above the anal, very much similar to the one pictured in *R. lateristriata* by *Smith* (1945 Fig. 13). Nevertheless my specimens are similar to *R. cromiei*, the lateral line being markedly decurved, the dark spot on the peduncle of an oval shape, the caudal dark pigmented along the caudal edge. Also the pectorals have I, 12 (not I, 14 as in *lateristriata*), ventrals with I,8 (not I, 6-7 as in *lateristriata*). In the colour description given by *Fowler*, it appears that he did not use live material, since he states that the caudal is grey brown, whereas my field notes and a colour sketch show a pale yellow caudal fin.

Material :	No. 113.	Small brook near Sai Yok	14.12.61	TL 64 mm
	— 3002.	same	same	TL 73 mm
	— 3003.	—	—	TL 53 mm
	— 3004.	—	—	TL 60 mm
	— 3005.	—	—	TL 52 mm
	— 3006.	—	—	TL 52 mm
	— 3007.	—	—	TL 52 mm

Mystacoleucus chilopterus Fowler.

As I in the field noted one *Mystacoleucus* species, apparently different from the species *marginatus*, I asked a local man to give me

the Thai name and this was given as *pla kayok*. *Smith* gives *pla kiyok* for *M. marginatus*. These names are so close that I consider them to be the same, which means that the species *marginatus* and *chilopterus* have the same trivial name in Thai.

Comparing the two species *M. chilopterus* and *marginatus* in respect of characters given by *Smith* in his key I found some transition between the two species, both in respect of number of predorsal scales and in the presence of the black crescent spots. In some specimens of *marginatus* these spots may appear as scattered over the back side, because some of the spots are much darker on some scales than on other scales.

One specimen was caught in fish basket at the depth of 3 m.

Material: No. 567. Kwae Noi at Sai Yok 2.1.62. TL 85 mm
 — 137. — — — — 15.12.61. TL 62 mm

***Mystacoleucus marginatus* (Cuvier et Valenciennes).**

Already dealt with in the first part of this paper. Additional material consisting of a complete skeleton was collected. The pharyngeal teeth proved to be well in accordance with the figure given by *Weber* (1916).

Material: No. 730. Kwae Noi at Lawa Cave 21.1.62. TL 157 mm

***Puntius daruphani* H.M. Smith.**

Material: No. 1014. Kwae Noi at Lawa Cave 6.2.62. TL 164 mm
 — 51. — — — Ban Kao 25.11.61. TL 117 mm

***Amblyrhynchichthys truncatus* (Bleeker).**

Already dealt with in the first part of this paper. Additional material:

Material: No. 202. Kwae Noi at Sai Yok 29.12.61. Skeleton.

SILURIDAE

***Kryptopterus limpok* (Bleeker). Fig. 3.**

One of my specimens has abnormally short maxillary barbels, which are only extended to past the middle of the anal fin. In the original description the colour of the body is stated to be "dilute

viridi", i.e. a diluted or light green (*Bleeker* 1852). *Weber* (1913) gives the colour as yellowish. This could also be said about my formaldehyde preserved material, but in life the sides were of a brilliant violet colour, with some metallic green also. The belly was white. Local name given to me was *pla nua on kai*.

According to the original diagnosis the anal is contiguous with the caudal. Only 4 specimens from Thailand are recorded by *Smith*. About two of these Thai-specimens *Smith* states, that the anal fin was joined to base of caudal fin by a membrane. This remark indicates, that the other specimens seen by *Smith* did not possess such a membrane. None of my two specimens had anal joined to caudal by membrane.

Material: No. 724. Kwae Noi at Sai Yok 9.1.62. TL 309 mm
 -- 725. -- -- -- -- -- TL 275 mm

SCHILBEIDAE

Pteropangasius cultratus (Smith). Fig. 4-5.

Quite common in Kwae Noi at Sai Yok where it was always caught in my net during night-time. Four specimens were preserved and seem to fit the original diagnosis well. The original diagnosis is not illustrated, but *Fowler* (1938, Fig. 30-33) has pictured the species. In my specimens there are some minor deviations from *Fowler's* illustration. In *Fowler's* picture as well as in the original description of the species the tapering green band along lateral line extends for about half the length of the body. In my material there is a narrow, but conspicuous continuation of this line to the caudal peduncle. The eye in my specimens appears also larger than in *Fowler's* figure. In the original diagnosis the size of the eye is given as 3,5 in head, which is closer to the condition in my specimens. Furthermore the ventral position of eyes is not as evident in *Fowler's* figure as on my specimens. In the original diagnosis the caudal lobes are "obtusely pointed", whereas *Fowler's* figure does not give the impression of any obtuse condition of the lobes.

My specimens in this respect conform well with the diagnosis but not so well with *Fowler's* figure. For these reasons I have attached photographs (Fig. 4 & 5) of my material. My specimens are without the dentition on the cranial side of the pectoral spine, shown in a sketch by *Fowler*. In all other respects my specimens conform well with the diagnosis of *P. cultratus* the main characteristic of which is the cultrate abdomen, not found in any related species.

The species will eat human excrements.

Material: No. 84.	Kwae Noi at Sai Yok	12.12.61.	TL 301 mm
— 99.	— — — —	13.12.61.	TL 302 mm
— 116.	— — — —	14.12.61.	TL 282 mm
— 723.	— — — —	8.1.62.	Skeleton.

TETRAODONTIDAE

Tetraodon leirus Bleeker.

Between 17th and 21st of November 1961 I picked up one large specimen thrown away by a local man north of Ban Kao. Although all sorts of fish, even the most tiny fish, are eaten, this bony species seems to be the limit. The maximal length of the species is by *Weber* (1962) given as 140 mm, so my specimen from Ban Kao measuring 157 mm seems to be a record length. Another specimen was caught further upstream at Sai Yok. Both specimens have one especially large and dominant ocellus below the rise of the dorsal fin. This is not the typical colouration as it is pictured by *Fowler* (1938) and by *Inger & Kong* (1962), but more like the colour variety described by *Hora* (1923) and pictured by the same author (1924).

Material: No. 24.	Kwae Noi at Ban Kao	17-21.11.61.	TL 157 mm
— 143.	— — — Sai Yok	16.12.61.	TL 106 mm

The following counts were made: D 13, P 21, A 10.



Fig. 4 *Pteropangasius cultratus*. Formaldehyde preparation. M. Thaarup phot.

Fig. 5 *Pteropangasius cultratus*. Ventral view of lowermost fish in fig. 4, to show ventral position of eyes. Formaldehyde preparation. M. Thaarup phot.



Literature

- Johnsen, P.** 1963. Notes on Fishes along the River Kwae Noi in Western Thailand. Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc. 20 (3).
- Weber, M. & de Beaufort** 1913-1962. The Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago. 1-11.
- Fowler, H.** 1935-40. Zoological Results of the Third de Schauensee Siamese Expedition Part 1-9. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sc. Philadelphia 86-91.
- Inger, R. & Chin Phui Kong** 1962. The Fresh-water Fishes of North Borneo. Fieldiana: Zoology 45.
- Hora, S.** 1923. On a Collection of Fish from Siam. Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. of Siam 6(2).
- Hora, S.** 1924. Fish of the Talé sap, Peninsular Siam. Mem. Asiatic Soc. Bengal 6(1-2).
- Smith, H.** 1945. The Fresh-water Fishes of Siam, or Thailand. Smithsonian Inst. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 188.
- Bleeker, P.** 1852. Diagnostische Beschrijvingen van nieuwe op weinig bekende Vischsoorten van Sumatra. Nat. Tijdschr. Nederl. Indië 3.