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13. A NEW RECORD OF *EPINEPHELUS GUAZA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (SERRANIDAE: PISCES) FROM INDIAN WATERS

INTRODUCTION

While carrying out a survey on the biota represented in the rockpools off Visakhapatnam coast, an interesting species of serranid fish belonging to the genus *Epinephelus* was collected. *E. quaza* was described earlier by Smith (1961) and Smith, C. L. (1971) from South Africa and America. The species is being recorded for the first time from Indian waters and hence a short description is given.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Collection of fishes was done using a hand net of 0.6 m diameter. In taking the morphometric data, a measuring board, a dial as well as a Vernier Callipers were used and the methodology of Hubbs & Lagler (1958) was followed.

The data is based on a female specimen measuring 200 mm in standard length, collected on 6-2-1980.

DESCRIPTION

Counts: D XI, 16; A III, 8; p. 18; V I, 5;

C 13; gillrakers 8+1+15; lateral line scales 60; 1. tr. 14/1/29.

As percentage of standard length: total length 125.00; body depth 75.00; head length 42.00; snout 9.00; eye diameter 6.00; inter-orbital 4.50; pectoral length 23.50; ventral length 18.00; caudal peduncle length 12.00; distance to dorsal 33.0, to anal 75.0, to pectoral 35.0, to ventral 39.0.

As percentage of head length: snout 21.43; eye diameter 14.29; inter-orbital 10.71.

Body oblong, slightly compressed, deepest under the origin of dorsal. Cycloid scales on anterior half of body and upper and lower parts of flanks, rest of the body with ctenoid scales; mouth oblique, gape large, lower jaw slightly projecting; maxilla large reaching below the hind margin of eye; nostrils round, posterior one larger. Eyes large. Teeth pointed and small, in 3-4 rows on upper jaw, outermost row of teeth slightly bigger, one tooth on either side of symphysis enlarged, two rows of teeth on lower jaw, two on each side of symphysis enlarged; arrow-head shaped patch of teeth on vomer, 3-4 rows of teeth on pala-

tines, patches of teeth on roof and floor of pharynx. Vertical edge of pre-opercle serrated with a broad shallow concavity just above the rounded and serrated angle, horizontal edge smooth. Three spines on opercle, middle one being larger. Fourth dorsal spine longest, longest ray longer than longest spine, rays reach caudal base when folded back. Third anal spine longest and stoutest, longest ray longer than longest spine; rays reach latter half of caudal peduncle. Pectorals rounded and do not reach vent, ventrals do not reach vent. Caudal rounded.

Colour: Chocolate brown body with large and irregular pale blotches all over the body. Ventral side up to anal pale yellow. Edges of all fins black. Pectoral base brown, orange in the middle with black edge.

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REMARKS

This grouper was collected from a crevice adjoining a rockpool at low tide. The above description conforms to that of *Epinephelus quaza* by Smith (1961) and also by Smith, C. L. (1971). The recorded maximum length of this species is 900 mm (Barnard 1927). The collection of a lone specimen over a collection period of three years indicates the rarity of this species.

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14. ON THE EXTENSION OF RANGE OF A FRESHWATER CATFISH — *GLYPTOTHORAX LINEATUS* (DAY) (SILURIFORMES; Sisoridae) — TO POONCH VALLEY (JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE)

Sisorid catfishes of the genus *Glyptothorax* Blyth are typical torrential-stream teleosts which prefer fast-flowing mountain streams and possess a thoracic adhesive apparatus composed of longitudinal plaits of skin by which they can hold on to stones, roots and other firm objects. The rays of the paired fins

also bear adhesive skin on their under surface. The range of distribution of *Glyptothorax* Blyth is Syria, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Laos, Sumatra, Java, Borneo and China (Hora 1923).

Glyptothorax lineatus (Day) is a freshwater sisorid of India which has been previously



Reddy, N A V P. 1984. "A new record of *Epinephelus guaza* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Serranidae: Pisces) from Indian waters." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 80, 650–651.

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