

DESCRIPTION OF *AMEIURUS LACUSTRIS OKEECHOBEEENSIS*.

BY HENRY W. FOWLER.

*Ameiurus lacustris okeechobeensis* (Heilprin).*Ictalurus okeechobeensis* Heilprin, Trans. Wagner Inst. Sci. Phila., I, 1887, pl. 18; Kissimee River, Lake Okeechobee, Florida.*Ameiurus okeechobeensis* Jordan and Evermann, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., No. 47, I, 1896, p. 138.

This fish, which was first described by Prof. Heilprin, proves to be a subspecies of *Ameiurus lacustris* (Walb.), and as his description is insufficient I redescribe it.

Form of the body rather elongate. Head  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in the body. D. I, 6. Eye  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in head and situated anterior to the middle of the head and with the lower margin of the orbit on a line with the middle of the depth of the head. Head, convex posteriorly, its width between the opercles  $1\frac{3}{10}$  in its length and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in the body. The supraoccipital process reaches the second interspinal and the ridge of bone is thus complete. Interorbital space more or less shallowly convex, the eye being contained in it  $5\frac{2}{3}$  times. Mouth rather large, lips fleshy. Barbels thin, especially the nasal pair and the outstretched maxillary pair reach  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the P. spine. Inner margin of the P. spine serrate. The D. spine is smooth and nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in the length of the head. Humeral process covered with thin skin, and only is it slightly rugose on the anterior portion, and it projects backward and slightly upward for more than one-half the length of the P. spine. The V. reach the A. The A. fin with 24 rays, and its base  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in the length of the body. The insertion of the D. is at a point a little behind the tip of the outstretched P., and nearer the adipose fin than the tip of the snout. Lateral line slightly arched anteriorly. Caudal forked, the upper lobe longer than the lower, and with the rudimentary rays conspicuous. Color above blackish brown, the D., the A., and caudal fins of the same color. Upper surface of the P. and V. blackish brown. Lower surface of the body whitish. Barbels blackish brown, except the median mental pair, which are

whitish like the lips. There are two specimens of this fish in the collection. The type, No. 8,443, from which the above description was taken, is larger than the other, which is No. 8,442, measuring 21 and 14 inches respectively. They both possess 26 rays in the A. fin if the anterior rudiments are counted and have the D. situated nearer the tip of the adipose fin than the tip of the snout. These specimens were collected in 1886, and presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by Prof. Angelo Heilprin.





Fowler, Henry W. 1899. "Description of Ameiurus lacustris okeechobeensis." *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 51, 480–481.

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