



Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

THE VORACITY OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN HOPLIAS

Many of the sucker-like and carp-like Characins, such as *Prochilodus* and *Leporinus* when caught in the seine will lie quietly dormant, but *Hoplias*, if permitted to remain undisturbed, is almost certain to bite its way out. This habit, said to be fairly common in the fishes of the Amazonian basin, is not often found in the fishes of the Pacific coastal streams.

In May, 1913, when upon the Landon Expedition of Indiana University, I was collecting in the Rio San Juan of Western Colombia. One morning at one of the Indian ranchos, where we had passed the night, one of the Indians brought in a large *Hoplias*, which he had evidently caught with hook and line and had dispatched by the crash of a machete through its brain. This specimen measured about twenty inches and had the abdomen greatly distended. The Indians called my attention to this and upon opening the fish, we took out an eight-inch catfish (*Pimelodus wagneri*). This, with the head of its captor, I procured in exchange for a few fish-hooks and they are now in the Museum of Indiana University.

Like most of the South American catfishes, *Pimelodus* is equipped with a very sharp dorsal and strong jagged pectoral spines. Just how *Hoplias* can manage to capture these fishes is not known. It is quite

possible that the remarks of Harrington [American Naturalist XXXIII, 1899, p. 721] about the African *Polypterus* may also apply to *Hoplias*.

ARTHUR W. HENN,
New York, N. Y.

NOTES OF THE FISHES OF THE PEE- DEE RIVER BASIN, NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

During the last week of March and the first week of April, 1916, the writer made a journey by canoe from near Pinebluff, N. C., to Georgetown, S. C., following the Lumbee, Lumber, Little Peedee, Big Peedee, and Waccamaw Rivers. The following is a list of fishes observed. No attempt was made at systematic collecting, and the only apparatus used was a small dip-net, and occasionally a hook and line.

All records, unless otherwise mentioned, are from the Little Peedee River, between its junctions with the Lumber and the Big Peedee.

1. *Amiatus calvus* (Linnaeus). A single example, about 2 feet long was taken in an overflow pool near the river on April 1st. It was guarding its nest, in which the young were just hatching.

2. *Ameiurus platycephalus* (Girard). Abundant. Many examples taken on hook and line.

3. *Schilbeodes insignis* (Richardson). One example, 40 mm. long.

4. *Catostomus commersonii* (Lacepede). Two examples, 44 and 57 mm. long.

5. *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacepede). One example, about 9 inches long, seen in a gill net. The coloration was very brilliant, approaching that of *Perca flavescens*.

6. *Moxostoma* sp. Abundant. Many seen in the possession of natives. None examined.



Henn, Arthur Wilbur. 1916. "The Voracity of the South American Hoplias." *Copeia* 33, 53–54.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/53398>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/85678>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.