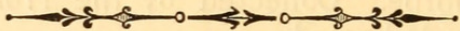


Locality, neighbourhood of Brisbane, common in most of the creeks. Its habits are essentially aquatic; it may with caution be often observed sitting on the snags beside the water, into which it drops at the slightest alarm. Occasionally it rises to protrude its nose above the surface, but like its relative *Grammatophora muricata*, and perhaps others of the sept, it can remain at the bottom for a long period. Received also from the Tweed River.



ON A NEW FORM OF THE GENUS THERAPON.

BY C. W. DE VIS.

OUR fresh-water fish are as yet but very imperfectly known and we are therefore always glad to welcome a new acquaintance in this division of our fauna. Dwellers on our creeks and lagoons would, without much trouble, earn our thanks by sending for examination even dry specimens of all the fish to be caught in them, and would doubtless find that they could frequently enjoy the credit of enlarging the field of knowledge in this direction. This has been exemplified by Mr. Ling Roth, of Mackay, who has been at the pains of conveying from Lake Elphinstone the fish which awaits description. Lake Elphinstone is a sheet of water about six miles long and two miles broad, situate between Nebo and the Suttor River. It lies in a land locked basin, and is without an affluent, but, notwithstanding that it apparently receives only the water shed from the very limited slopes around it, its contents are not diminished by prolonged drought to any very great extent, and they are at all times particularly turbid. We might almost suspect the presence of mud springs at the bottom—apart from turbidity there may also be something in the water still more inimical to animal, or at least to fish life, for Mr. Ling Roth states that the fish under notice is the only one to be found in it. If so, the monopoly it has of the lake may perhaps be explained by the great adaptability to circumstances shewn by the whole genus to which it belongs. This group of Australian perches contains a goodly number of species of which some are littoral sea-fish, others inhabit brackish waters, and others prefer pools and lakes. Their occupation of a habitat unsuitable to other fishes may result from this elasticity of constitution. The Therapons form a very natural group, a pretty strict uniformity of

structure obtaining throughout—their specific characters consist chiefly of ornamental markings, appearing in one series as longitudinal stripes, in another as cross-bands, while in a few species, they are almost obsolete, and to these latter belong the perch of Lake Elphinstone.

THERAPON ELPHINSTONENSIS.—

D 12/10 A 3/8 Lat. line 52-54-Tr. 7/15.

Height of the body equals length of head, and less than one fourth of the whole length; orbit three-fourths of the interorbit, and one-fifth of the length of the head; interorbit one-fourth and snout one-third of the length of the head; outer row of teeth strong and regular; preorbital strongly serrated except one side of one specimen; preoperculum feebly serrated; operculum with one point; coracoid strongly denticulated; maxillary not quite reaching the vertical from the front margin of the orbit; spinous dorsal low, 5th spine the longest, nearly one-third of the depth of the body; second anal spine much stronger, but not longer than the third; caudal slightly emarginate.

Colour, uniform pale-brown, a little redder on the back. The nearest ally of this species is *T. longulus*, *MacI*, from the inland waters of North Australia. Its distinctive characters are much smaller eyes nearer together; smaller scales; a single opercular spine, and a feebly serrated preoperculum of which the serrations are stronger at the lower angle.





De Vis, Charles Walter. 1884. "On a New Form of the Genus Therapon." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 1(2), 56–57.

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