

	B.	Tot.	H.	Sn.	E.	Io.	Dp.	Cp.	Fin-rays.				Scales.	
									1st D.	4th Ray.	2nd D.	An.	Long.	Trans.
♂. 1.	100	125	23	6	8	2	18	11	VI	23	13	12	37	8
„ 2.	95	115	19	4.5	7	2	18	11	VI	32	13	12	38	8
„ 3.	95	115	19	4.5	7	2	18	11	VI	19	13	12	37	8
„ 4.	77	92	18	4	5.5	1.5	14	8	VI	16.5	14	11	38	8
♀. 5.	90	112	17.5	4	7	2	18	10	VI	14	14	12	39	8
„ 6.	82	100	16	3.5	5.5	1.5	16	8.5	VI	13	14	11	36	9
„ 7.	79	98	15	3	5	1.5	16	8.5	VI	13	14	12	39	9
„ 8.	79	98	15	3	5	1.5	16	8.5	VI	13	14	12	39	9

B. Body. Tot. Total length. H. Head. Sn. Snout. E. Eye. Io. Interorbital space. Dp. Depth. Cp. Caudal peduncle. 1st D. First Dorsal. 4th Ray. 2nd D. Second Dorsal. An. Anal. Long. Longitudinal series. Trans. Transverse series.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXX.

Fig. a. Gobijs capito, profile view (female).

Fig. b. Ditto, from above.

Fig. c. Ventral fin of ditto.

LIX.—On a new Species of Helictis.

By J. LEWIS BONHOTE, M.A.

HAVING recently had occasion to go over the genus *Helictis*, I find that the form found in Cochin China differs from those hitherto described, and therefore requires naming.

I propose to call it

Helictis Pierrei, sp. n.

General colour above brownish clay ("mummy-brown" of Ridgw.), each hair having a whitish glistening tip, more conspicuous in some examples than in others. These light tips reach their maximum development in the tail, and so predominate over the terminal two thirds of its length as to

entirely conceal the darker colour. Underparts dirty yellowish white. Markings on the face as in the other species, the white longitudinal line reaching to about the middle of the back.

The skull is slightly larger than that of true *personata* and the auditory bullæ considerably larger, especially when measured in the direction of the long axis of the skull. In other points, however, the skulls are similar.

Dimensions (of type from skin) :—

Head and body 400 millim.; tail 175; hind foot 60; ear 24.

Skull (see below).

Habitat. Saigon, Lower Cochin China.

Type. B.M. 78. 6. 17. 7. Adult male collected by M. Pierre in March 1867.

Outwardly this species, which is closely allied to *H. personata*, may be recognized by its slightly larger size and more rufous coloration. The difference in the bullæ of the skulls forms a well-marked and easily discernible character.

Skull-measurements of H. personata and H. Pierrei compared.

	Greatest length.	Basal length.	Palatal length.	Zygomatic breadth.	Greatest breadth of brain-case.	Length of auditory bullæ.	Width of basi-occipital at anterior end.
<i>H. Pierrei</i> , ♂, type ..	88	76	40	50	32	19	8·5
<i>H. personata</i> , ♂, Siam.	80	70	37	46	30	17	7·5

This genus can be subdivided into two well-marked groups, the difference lying in the size of the teeth, especially of the carnassial; the large-toothed group are the western forms, and consist of

H. personata (Is. Geoff.), from Pegu.

H. nepalensis (Hodgs.), from Nepal.

H. orientalis * (Horsf.), from Java.

H. Pierrei, described above.

Of the small-toothed group we have

H. moschata, Gray, from China.

H. subaurantiaca, Swinhoe, from Formosa.

H. Everetti, Thos., from Borneo.

H. subaurantiaca is very closely allied to the mainland

* *Melogale fusca*, Guérin, Mag. Zool. 1835, pl. xvi., is a synonym of this species.

form, from which it differs chiefly in the yellowish colour of the underparts.

H. Everetti is a small form of *H. orientalis*, but is markedly distinct, owing to the teeth-differences.

H. nepalensis much resembles *H. orientalis*, differing from it in being slightly larger. It is practically identical in size with *H. personata*.

The white tips to the hairs, although a conspicuous feature, are, owing to their variability, useless as a specific character. They are most noticeable in true *personata*, and, as a rule, entirely absent in *nepalensis*, *orientalis*, and *Everetti*; in the Chinese species, although present, they are of such a tint as to be hardly discernible.

LX.—*Description of a new West-African Fish of the Genus Alestes.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Alestes brevis.

Depth of body $2\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 times in total length, length of head $3\frac{3}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{4}$ times. Head $1\frac{2}{3}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ as long as broad, $1\frac{1}{6}$ to $1\frac{1}{5}$ as long as deep; the distance between end of snout and occiput not or but slightly exceeding width of head; snout rounded, scarcely projecting beyond the lower jaw, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as eye; eye lateral, visible from above and from below, its diameter $\frac{3}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{3}$ times in length of head; adipose eyelid scarcely developed; interorbital width $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head; maxillary not reaching to below anterior border of eye; 18 or 20 teeth ($\frac{10-12}{8}$) in the upper jaw; lower border of second suborbital as long as or longer than diameter of eye. Gill-rakers rather short and thin, 18 to 20 on lower part of anterior arch. Dorsal II 8, above middle of space between ventrals and anal, considerably nearer caudal than occiput; first branched ray longest, $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{4}{5}$ length of head. Adipose fin short, twice or twice and a half as far from rayed dorsal as from caudal. Anal III 13–15, pointed in front, third simple ray longest, $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head. Pectoral nearly as long as head, reaching or nearly reaching ventral. Latter shorter. Caudal deeply forked. Caudal peduncle not or but slightly longer than deep. Scales with numerous anastomosing



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