

29. TAXONOMIC STATUS OF THE GOBIOID FISH *OXYURICHTHYS DASI* TALWAR, CHATTERJEE AND ROY

In their revisionary studies, Pezold and Larson (1986) stated that the genus *Oxyurichthys* Bleeker has been historically recognized on the basis of a single row of teeth in the upper jaw, though this character is not limited to *Oxyurichthys* alone. *Oxyurichthys* can, however, be readily distinguished from its presumed relatives belonging to the subfamily Gobionellinae *sensu* Miller by several uniquely derived characters. All members of the group possess a membranous crest on the nape and a distinctly rounded tongue. The upper rear portion of the eye is modified in the form of a spot, a callus or a tentacle except in one species, viz. *O. stigmalocephus*. The genus contains perhaps 15 species primarily distributed in the Indo-Pacific, with one species in the western Atlantic.

Oxyurichthys dasi was described from the Andaman islands by Talwar, Chatterjee and Roy (1982). From the description of teeth rows in this species as being more than one in the upper jaw, the absence of a membranous crest and a reduction in the sensory canal system on the cheek, it is evident that this species does not belong to the genus *Oxyurichthys*. On the other hand a greater affinity is noted to the genus *Oligolepis* Bleeker in the reduction in the transverse papillae and suborbital pores on the cheek and in the shape and position of the

mouth.

Some other species of *Oligolepis* have been inadvertently overlooked by earlier workers and placed under the genus *Oxyurichthys*. Pezold and Larson (pers. comm.) have defined the genus *Oligolepis* as having a disjunct lateral canal, a preopercular canal with two pores, a reduction of transverse papillae on the cheek and a loss of sub-orbital rows, in addition to certain osteological characters.

Oxyurichthys jaarmani Weber, reported from Indian waters (Talwar 1969), is now known to be *Oligolepis jaarmani* and *Oxyurichthys nijsseni* Menon and Govindan (1976) is a synonym of *Oligolepis acutipinnis*. Both species possess more than one row of teeth in the upper jaw and have the sensory canal system characteristic of the genus *Oligolepis*. With the addition of *Oxyurichthys talwari* Ranjana Mehta, Kamala Devi and Mehta (1989), the number of species so far known from the Indo-Pacific is seven.

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30. *NEMATOLOSA NASUS* (BLOCH, 1795) (PISCES: CLUPEIDAE): A NEW RECORD FROM THE FRESHWATERS OF TRIPURA

(With a text-figure)

Whitehead (1973), while revising the fishes of the family Clupeidae, mentioned the genus *Nematolosa* Regan, represented by a single species from the Indian seas. Misra (1976) and Jayaram (1981) also mentioned the fishes of the genus *Nematolosa* as represented by a single species, viz. *N. nasus* (Bloch). Talwar and Kacker (1984) recovered two species of the genus in Indian marine waters, viz. *N. galathea* Nelson and Rothman and *N. nasus* (Bloch). *N. galathea* is a rare species, known only

from Karnataka coast of India and is now considered identical with *N. chanpole* (Hamilton-Buchanan) by Wongratana (1980). The fishes of the genus *Nematolosa* are basically marine. Jayaram (op. cit.) stated *N. nasus* enters freshwaters. This species is known to inhabit "Pulta, Calcutta, West Bengal, Puri, Chilka Lake, Orissa coast, Coromandel coast, Madras, Travancore-Cochin coast, Calicut, Malabar coast and Bombay" (Misra 1962). Day (1889) gave the distribution of the species as "Seas of India



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