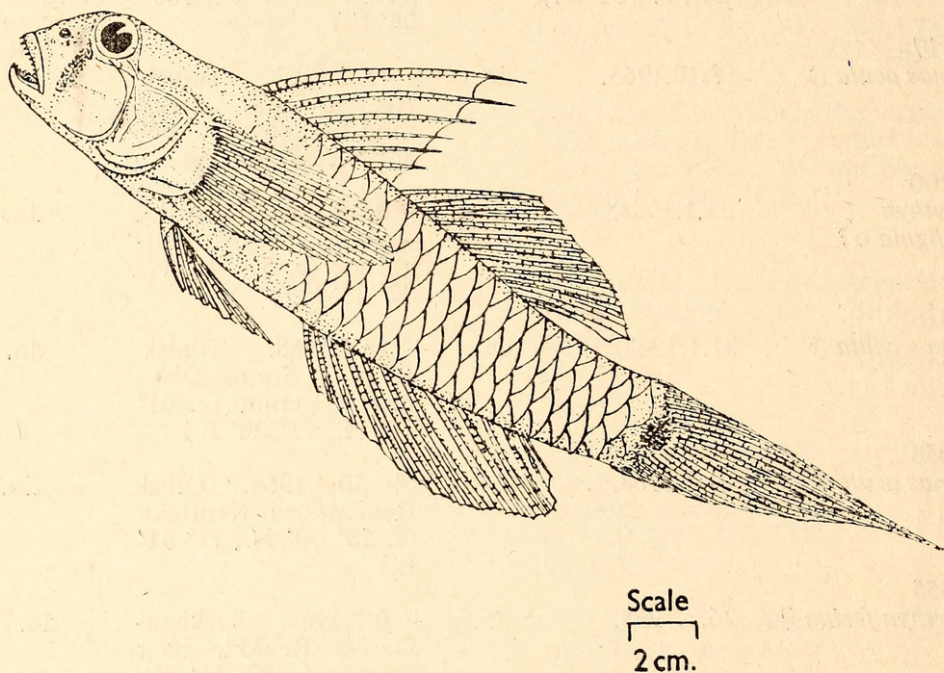


18. *OXYURICHTHYS JAARMANI* WEBER (GOBIIDAE: PISCES), A RARE GOBIOID FROM INDIAN WATERS

(With a text-figure)

Koumans (1941) reports two species of *Oxyurichthys* from Indian waters namely, *O. microlepis* (Bleeker) and *O. tentacularis* (C.V.).



Text-Fig. *Oxyurichthys jaarmani* Weber

During my studies on the taxonomy of the fishes from the Orissa coast, a specimen of *Oxyurichthys* collected from the Mahanadi estuary on 15 March, 1964 by Sri. N. V. Subba Rao of the Zoological Survey of India was determined as *O. jaarmani* Weber. This species has so far been recorded only from the estuary of the Lorentz River, New Guinea (Koumans 1953), its type locality. The present communication records the occurrence of this rare gobioid for the first time from Indian waters.

***Oxyurichthys jaarmani* Weber**

(Text-fig.)

Oxyurichthys jaarmani Weber, 1913, *Nova Guinea*, 9(4), p. 601 ; Koumans, 1953, *Fishes Indo Australian Archipelago*, 10, p. 40.

Oxyurichthys jaarmani Fowler, 1928, *Mem. B.P. Bishop Mus.*, 10, p. 415.

MATERIAL : 1, 78 mm. in total length ; False Point (Mahanadi estuary, Orissa) ; 15 March, 1964 ; N. V. Subba Rao ; Zoological Survey of India Reg. No. F 5531.

Description:

D. VI+I. 10; A. I. 11; P. 21; L. I. 28; L. tr. 7; Gillrakers 1+4.

Depth of body 4.1; length of head 3.5; both in standard length. Eye diameter 3.9 in head; interorbital 4.0 in eye diameter.

Mouth cleft nearly horizontal, jaws subequal. Maxilla extends to level of anterior third of eye. Interorbital pores indistinct. No ocular tentacles.

Single row of fine caniniform teeth in upper jaw, in three rows in lower jaw. Palate and tongue edentate.

Gill openings moderately restricted, open laterally somewhat below a level from lower edge of pectoral base; isthmus moderate. Gillrakers well developed.

Squamation well developed on body; absent on head, median predorsal and on breast before pelvics; scales ctenoid, smaller and less ctenoid anteriorly.

Dorsals prominent; anal similar to second dorsal. Anal originates below the second dorsal ray. Pectoral longer than head and pelvic. Caudal long, pointed; longer than head.

Colour in alcohol—brownish, the vertical and paired fins dusky black. A conspicuous dark vertical band below the eye and indistinct dark blotch on caudal base.

Remarks: The specimen from the Mahanadi estuary differs from the original and subsequent descriptions of this species (Weber 1913; Fowler 1928, and Koumans 1953) in having a lesser number of scales in the lateral series, greater body depth and considerably smaller eye. Another variation noticed is that the interorbital pores are indistinct in the present specimen. However, in the absence of significant differences in the meristic counts, morphometric proportions and coloration, the Mahanadi specimen cannot be treated as a separate subspecies in spite of the geographical separation.

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P. K. TALWAR

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