

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

ON TWO NEW CHARACINS IN THE AMERICAN
MUSEUM.

BY JOHN TREADWELL NICHOLS.

Of the numerous exotic fishes donated from time to time to the Natural History Museum in New York, the following seem not to have been described:

Coelurichthys lateralis sp. nov.

The type No. 4072, American Museum of Natural History, is 30 mm. long to base of caudal; depth, 3.5 in this measure; head, 3.9; eye, 2.7 in head; snout, 5.0; end of maxillary from tip of snout, 2.5. Moderately elongate and compressed, the dorsal and ventral outlines similar posteriorly, the dorsal straighter, more horizontal, anteriorly. Lower jaw projecting, maxillary vertical, to front of pupil. Snout very short; eye large; nostrils separated by only a narrow partition. Several large pores on side of head above. Dorsal origin equidistant from base of central caudal rays and posterior margin of gill-cover. Its height contained about once and a half in head. A small adipose present. Anal long, its origin distinctly in advance of that of dorsal. Ventrals to anal. Pectorals past base of ventrals. Caudal forked, the lower lobe pointed (the upper lobe broken). Dorsal, 9; anal, 31. Scales, 40; about 15 lengthwise series. Lateral line incomplete, short, on about 6 scales. Our only other specimen, No. 4086, has the fins much broken, but in some other ways is better preserved than the type. It has cusped teeth in the upper jaw, which seem to be arranged in two imperfect series, a few larger central ones set further back than the others. About five small ones are situated beyond the premaxillary-maxillary angle. Inside these five are about five minute, more widely spaced teeth. The lower jaw has a single series of cusped teeth. The opercle has a rather broad membranous margin. Gill membranes separate and free. A broad dusky lengthwise band on the lower part of the side; a narrow streak above it in the center of the peduncle. Central caudal rays more or less dusky; tip of lower jaw dusky.

These two small aquarium fishes were presented to the American Museum of Natural History by Mr. William Mack, of New York. There was no accompanying data, but they are probably South American, and are referred to the genus *Cælurichthys* of Ribeiro.*

***Cælurichthys tenuis* sp. nov.**

The type No. 4087, American Museum of Natural History, is a specimen 31 mm. long to base of caudal; depth, 4.0 in this measure; head, 4.1; eye, 3.0 in head; snout, 4.0; end of maxillary from tip of snout, 2.3. Elongate and compressed, the dorsal outline almost straight; the ventral outline arched downward in front and slanting gently upward behind. Lower jaw projecting. Maxillary vertical, to front of pupil. Snout short. Nostrils separated by only a narrow partition. Pores on side of head above. Dorsal origin equidistant from base of central caudal rays and posterior margin of gill-cover. Its height only slightly less than the length of head. When depressed, the dorsal overlaps the front of the adipose fin. Anal long, its origin distinctly in advance of that of the dorsal. Ventrals to anal. Pectorals past base of ventrals. Caudal broad; this fin is broken but was certainly forked, perhaps with a rounded lower lobe. A peculiar scaly, downward opening, pocket structure on the base of the middle caudal rays. Dorsal 9, anal 32. Scales 40, about 13 lengthwise series. Lateral line incomplete, short, on about 7 scales. Lower jaw with a single row of cusped teeth in front, changing abruptly to minute teeth on the side. Upper jaw with what apparently is a single row of cusped teeth, about 3 small teeth at the side beyond the premaxillary-maxillary angle. Gill membranes separate and free. A broad dusky, lengthwise band on the lower part of the side, a narrow central streak above it posteriorly. Central caudal rays and tip of lower jaw more or less dusky.

Our only other specimen, American Museum of Natural History No. 4088, 32 mm. long., has 31 anal rays and apparently an imperfect inner row of teeth in the front of the upper jaw; otherwise resembles the type.

These two small Aquarium fishes were presented to the American Museum of Natural History by the New York Aquarium Society. There was no accompanying data. They are close to *Cælurichthys lateralis*.

The two species here described may be separated from *C. iporangæ* as follows :

Depressed dorsal not reaching adipose. Lower	
caudal lobe pointed. Depth 3.5	<i>lateralis</i>
Depressed dorsal reaching adipose.	
Depth 3.5	<i>iporangæ</i>
Depth 4.0	<i>tenuis</i>

* Rio de Janeiro, Kosmos, V, No. 2, February, 1908.



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