

β. Antennæ filiformes. Unguiculi dentati. Tibiæ intermediæ sinuatae. Coxæ anticæ appropinquantes.

† Antennæ tomentosæ.

* *Elytra* apice truncato-rotundata. *Frons* convexa. *Oculi* divisi.

TETROPS, Kirb.

(*T. præusta*, L., fr.)

†† Antennæ sericatae.

* *Elytra* apice acuminata. *Frons* planiuscula. *Tibiæ* intermediæ incurvæ.

STENOSTOLA, Dej.

(*S. nigripes*, Fabr., fr.)

** *Elytra* apice truncato-emarginata. *Frons* convexa. *Scutellum* truncatum, brevissimum. *Tarsi* dimidiæ tibiæ longitudinis. *Abdomen* thorace cum capite longius.

OBEREA, Meg.

(*O. linearis*, L., r.)

*** *Elytra* apice truncato-emarginata. *Frons* convexa. *Scutellum* triangulum. *Tarsi* tibiis tertia parte breviores. *Abdomen* longitudine thoracis.

PHYTÆCIA, Dej.

(*P. cylindrica*, L., fr.)

XXIII.—Description of a new Characinoid Genus of Fish from West Africa. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER.

[Plate V.]

A SMALL collection of reptiles and fishes from the western coast of Africa, just procured for the British Museum, contains a single example of a Characinoid form which is of great interest, inasmuch as it is allied to *Ichthyborus**, a genus from the Nile, which, till very recently, was scarcely known. It differs so materially from the East-African form, that it must be referred to a separate genus, which I name

PHAGO.

In general appearance strikingly similar to *Spinachia*. Dorsal

* Kner does not appear to have been aware that these fish were known already to Joannis, and that I had founded a genus for them, when he published his genus *Psalidostoma*, which is evidently identical with *Ichthyborus*. *Psalidostoma caudimaculatum*, Kner, is probably synonymous with *Ichthyborus microlepis*, Gthr.

fin short, occupying the middle of the length of the body; adipose fin slender, styliform, slightly dilated at its extremity; anal short; caudal deeply forked, not scaly; ventrals scarcely in advance of the dorsal. Body low, elongate, tapering behind, covered with very large, hard, rugose scales, which have the margin serrated; the scales are imbricate, and form a complete, hard carapace. Lateral line uninterrupted; belly flat, head elongate, entirely osseous, the cheeks being covered by the very large infraorbital bone. Snout elongate, conical; cleft of the mouth wide, the angle of the mouth being situated just before the eye; the intermaxillaries and maxillaries of both sides coalesce, forming a very moveable flattish bone, which is armed with a series of strongish, compressed, tricuspid teeth round its entire margin, without canine teeth in front; another series of minute teeth runs along the inner edge of the bone. The dentaries of the mandible also are coalescent into a single bone, without median suture; their dentition is the same as that of the upper jaw. Both jaws are equally moveable in a vertical direction; and when the lower is pressed downwards, the upper is moved upwards at the same time; they shut spontaneously. Palate toothless. Nostrils on the upper surface of the head, in front of the eye, close together. Gill-openings of moderate width, the gill-membranes being attached to the isthmus.

Phago loricatus.

D. 12. A. 10. P. 9. V. 8. L. lat. 47. L. transv. $1\frac{1}{2}/3$.

The depth of the body is rather less than one-half of the length of the head, which is nearly one-fourth of the total (the caudal not included). Eye of moderate size, occupying the middle of the length of the head; its diameter is less than the width of the interorbital space, and two-fifths of the length of the snout. Intermaxillary and mandible with twenty teeth on each side, in the outer series. Operculum small, with rather a deep notch just above the hinder angle of the suboperculum. The origin of the dorsal fin is somewhat nearer to the extremity of the snout than to the root of the caudal fin; it is higher than long. Caudal with the lobes tapering, half as long as the head. Pectorals as long as ventrals, or as the postorbital portion of the head. The portion of the tail behind the anal is much elongate, and a transverse section would have the form of a regular hexagon. Uniform reddish shining silvery; vertical fins with brown dots; each caudal lobe with three oblique brown bands.

Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.



Günther, Albert C. L. G. 1865. "Description of a new characinoid genus of fish from West Africa." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 15, 209–210.

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