

X.—*Description of a new Silurid Fish of the genus Gephyroglanis, from South Africa.*—By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

(Plate XIII.)

THE collection of South African fresh-water fishes in the Cape Town Museum, which has been entrusted to me for naming by Mr. Selater, contains two examples of a Cat-fish from the Vaal River, which pertain to a new species referable to the remarkable genus *Gephyroglanis* recently established by me for a fish from the Congo, *G. congicus*,* and to which two species have since been added, viz., *G. longipinnis*,† likewise from the Congo, and *G. ogoensis*,‡ from the Ogowe.

This addition to the family *Siluridae*, so poorly represented in the fresh waters of South Africa, is of particular interest from the close relationship of the new species, which I propose to name in honour of Mr. W. L. Selater, to those of the Congo and Ogowe basins. In the following synopsis I have contrasted the characters by which the four species may best be distinguished, and it will be observed that these characters are comparatively slight.

- I. Maxillary barbel not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head;
nasal barbel extremely short; folded dorsal fin
not extending to the adipose.

Anal with 8 branched rays; adipose fin a little
shorter than rayed dorsal; caudal with acutely
pointed lobes; occiput feebly granulate 1. *G. congicus*, Blgr.

Anal with 10 branched rays; adipose fin a little
longer than rayed dorsal; caudal with acutely
pointed lobes; four longitudinal ridges on the
vertex; occiput strongly rugose 2. *G. ogoensis*, Pellegr.

* Ann. Mus. Congo, Zool. I., p. 42, pl. xx., fig. 2 (1899).

† *Op. cit.*, p. 109, pl. xli., fig. 4.

‡ Pellegrin, Bull. Mus., Paris, 1900, p. 179.

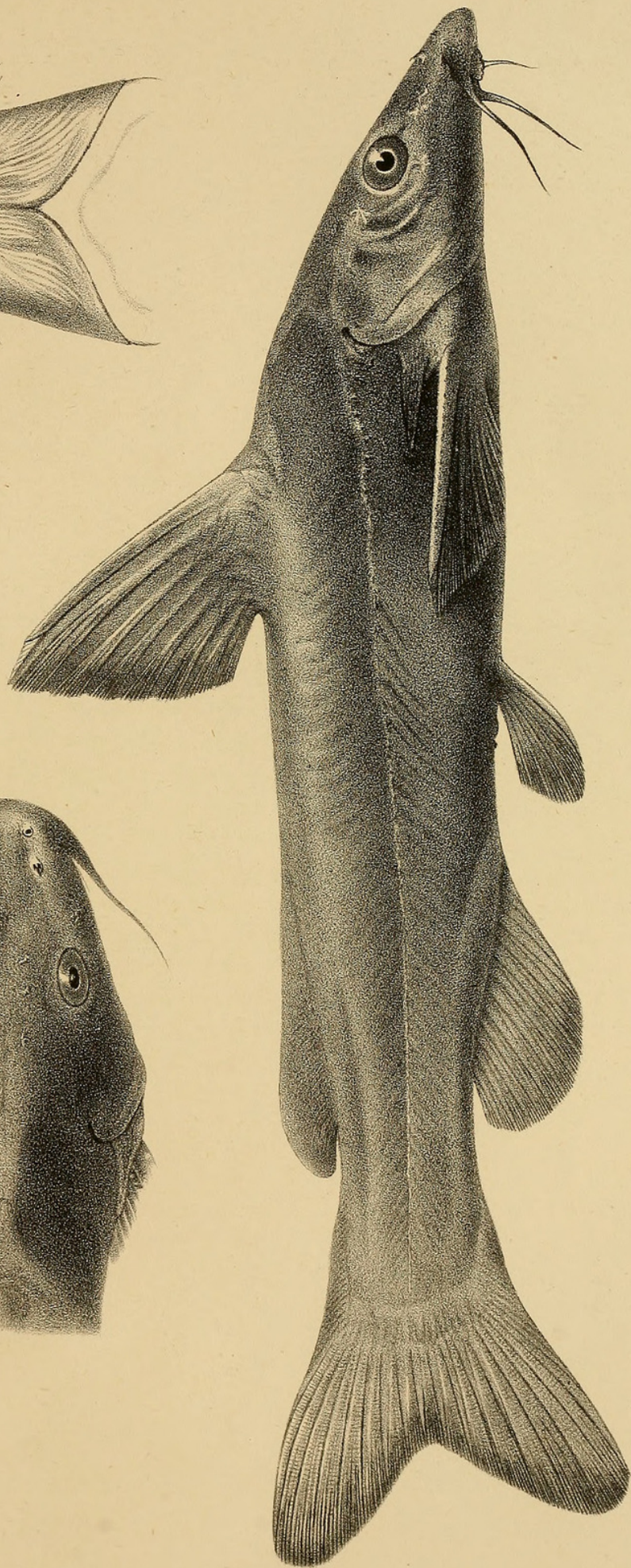
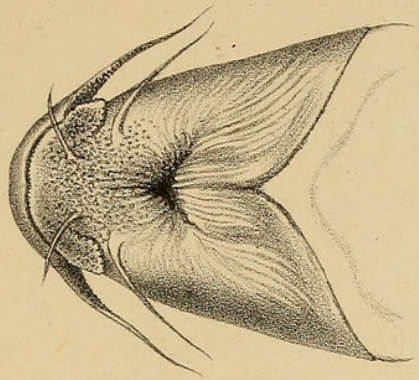
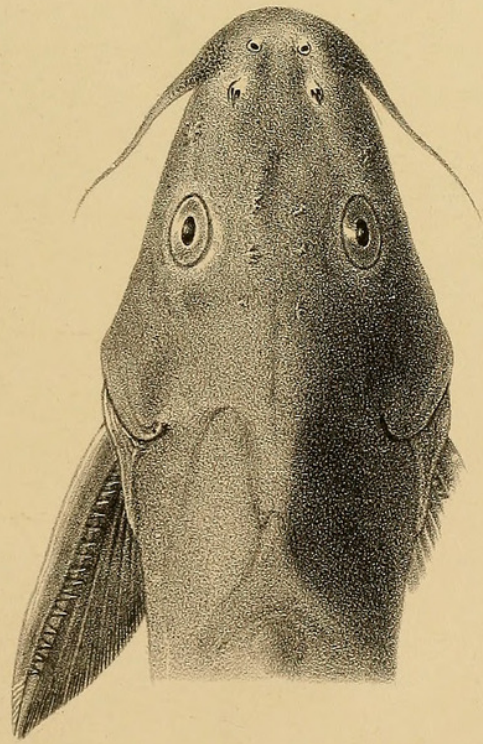
Anal with 11 branched rays; adipose fin longer than rayed dorsal; caudal with obtuse lobes; head smooth 3. *G. sclateri*, Blgr.

- II. Maxillary barbel $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head; nasal barbel $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of eye; folded dorsal reaching adipose, which is shorter; anal with 8 or 9 branched rays; caudal with acutely pointed lobes; vertex and occiput strongly striated and granulate 4. *G. longipinnis*, Blgr.

GEPHYROGLANIS SCLATERI, sp. n.

Depth of body $5\frac{2}{3}$ times in total length, length of head 4 times. Head $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{3}$ as broad as deep, $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ as long as broad, perfectly smooth; snout obtusely conical, $\frac{2}{5}$ length of head; eye, 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of head, $1\frac{1}{3}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in interocular width; occipital process much longer than broad, in contact with the interneural shield, which is triangular and shorter. Nasal barbel very short, barely $\frac{1}{3}$ diameter of eye; maxillary barbel $\frac{2}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head, outer mandibular $\frac{1}{3}$, inner $\frac{1}{5}$. Mouth, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{5}$ width of head; præmaxillary band of teeth concentric, nearly 4 times as long as broad. Dorsal 17, $1\frac{2}{3}$ to twice as deep as long, not reaching adipose fin when folded; spine strong, smooth, $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{4}{5}$ length of head; longest soft ray a little shorter than head. Adipose fin about 3 times as long as deep, shorter than its distance from the dorsal. Anal 16 (11 rays branched). Pectoral spine a little shorter than the dorsal, with 9 to 15 strong teeth on its inner border. Ventral not reaching origin of anal. Caudal bifid, with obtuse lobes, shorter than the head. Caudal peduncle $1\frac{1}{3}$ as long as deep. Muciparous canals expanding into rosettes on the head and produced into raised tubules on the anterior part of the lateral line. Uniform brownish.

Two specimens from the Vaal River, the larger measuring 190 millimetres, the smaller 98; of these the larger (Reg. No. 4708) is preserved in the collections of the South African Museum, the smaller has been presented to the British Museum.



P. J. Smit ad nat. hth.

West, Newman imp.

Gephyroglanis sclateri.



Boulenger, George Albert. 1901. "Description of a new Silurid Fish of the genus *Gephyroglanis*, from South Africa." *Annals of the South African Museum. Annale van die Suid-Afrikaanse Museum* 2, 227–228.

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