NOTES ON SIAMESE FISHES. By Hugh M. Smith.

Scleropages, an osteoglossid fish new to Siam.

The Osteoglossidae are a noteworthy family with curious present-day distribution and with fossil members which carry the family as far back as the Eocene. Two genera (Osteoglossum and Arapaima) with one species each are found in the fresh waters of Brazil and the Guianas; *Arapaima gigas* reaches a length exceeding 4.5 meters and may be the largest fresh-water fish. One genus (Heterotis) with one species ocurs in the Nile, Niger, and other large rivers of Africa. The remaining genus (Scleropages) has one member in the northern part of Australia and one until recently known only from streams and lakes in Sumatra, Banka, and Borneo. These four genera with five species comprise all the living representatives, and there are four fossil genera.

In 1844 Müller and Schlegel described a fish from the Dutch East Indies under the name of *Osteoglossum formosum*. In 1864 Günther established the genus Scleropages and placed therein a new species (*leichhardti*) from Queensland, Australia. The genus accommodates also Müller and Schlegel's species, and leaves the genus Osteoglossum for the South American species.

Bleeker (Atlas Ichthyologique, VI, 1866-1872) gives a description and colored plate of *O. formosum*, notes that it inhabits Sumatra, Banka, and Borneo, states that it is called *tangalasa* by the Dyaks of Borneo and *talisso* in Sumatra, records that in certain lakes in Borneo it is abundant and an important food of the indigenes, and gives 430 mm. as the maximum length attained by his specimens.

Weber and Beaufort (The Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago, II, 1913) describe and figure *Scleropages formosus* and ascribe *S. leichhardti* to New Guinea in addition to Australia, and note that Fuhrmann in 1905 recorded buccal incubation as occurring in *S. formosus*. Boulenger in 1909 and 1911 referred to oral gestation in this fish, but Boulenger and Bridge, authors of the fish sections of the Cambridge Natural History published in 1910, make no mention of this habit in any of the Osteoglossidae.

The distinction of making known the existence of an osteoglossid fish in Siam, and hence on the mainland of Asia, rests with Sieng Wongs-van-chareon, a boy scout in the monthon of Chantabun, changwad of Krat, Southeastern Siam. This boy scout participated in the fish competition arranged for the Boy Scout Jamboree of 1931 in Bangkok and was awarded a prize for an original paper embodying a life story of a local fish heretofore unidentified scientifically but known in the Krat region as *pla tapad*. A well-preserved specimen of the fish which accompanied the paper proved to be *Scleropages formosus*. It was 26 cm. long and agreed perfectly with descriptions and figures of the species as found in the Dutch East Indies.*

The following notes regarding this fish are supplied by Nai Sieng. It is not clear from his report whether he personally determined all the facts as stated or whether in some matters he accepted the views of others. All of the statements should therefore be fully confirmed. It is interesting to note that the local observation attributing the habit of oral incubation to the mother fish coincides with Boulenger's article in which a female fish in Sumatra was said to be carrying eggs in her mouth.

The fish occurs in various rivers, canals, and swamps in the Krat region, but is reported to be most abundant from the source of the Tarua Chang River to Ban Bamloan in the district of Wang Takien, ampur of Kao Saming. It is caught in considerable numbers with cast nets, gill nets, lines, and other apparatus. The flesh is fat and well flavored.

The largest fish reported are about 90 cm. long, 26 cm. deep, and 15 cm. thick, and weigh 6 catties, or about 7.2 kilograms.

The *pla tapad* has an extensive range of food, including worms, insects, spiders, small lizards, small snakes, frogs, and fish. A common habit is to lurk along the sides streams and canals under

^{*} The Annual Report of the Fisheries Department of Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States for 1930 (published in 1931) notes that *Scleropages formosus*, locally known to the Malays as *kelissa*, was taken in the Bukit Merah Irrigation Reservoir and in Tasek Bera, a lake in Pahang.

overhanging trees and bamboos and wait for land creatures to drop into the water, instantly seizing and devouring them. The fish will jump out of the water and seize small animals near the surface on banks and vegetation.

The eggs are few in number and of large size, but no definite statements thereon have been made. When the eggs are laid they are immediately taken into the mother fish's mouth, and are held there for about fifteen days, when hatching ensues. The mother fish permits the young to leave her mouth soon after hatching, but the young re-enter the protecting cavity; and a month elapses before the young finally depart from the mother's mouth, having reached a length of 2.5 cm. The young subsequently go in close schools like the young of *pla chon (Ophicephalus striatus)* and are looked after by the mother for about a month, after which she gives them no further attention.

The mother fish is said to endure patiently the presence of eggs and young in her mouth and to take food rarely. If in great hunger, she may expel them in a quiet place, go in search of food, and take them in again on her return from foraging. The young are said to be then liable to be eaten by *pla kapong* (Lates), *pla kot* (Arius), *pla chon*, and birds, but as a general thing the mother is very watchful and protective, and the young at that period do not have a large mortality.

Some siluroid fishes new to the fauna of Siam.

Batrachocephabus mino. The curious frog-headed catfish, in which the "whiskers" are reduced to a minimum, being represented by a very small pair on the mandibles, has an ascribed range which embraces India, Burma, Sumatra, Java, and Borneo. It is possible to bring Siam within its range, although its known distribution in Siam is very restricted. The collection of the Department of Fisheries contains specimens taken in the Chantabun River, June 11, 1926, and May 7, 1927, and a third taken in the Nam Cheo River, Krat, January 13, 1927.

Lais hexanema. This catfish, characterized by 4 barbels on the lower jaw and a pair of long maxillary barbels, has been recorded

only from Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and Malacca. It is known from Siam from a single specimen collected in the Nakon Nayok River April 20, 1930, by Boy Scout Suang Boonsanthob. The local name, *pla sangkawart*, is shared with members of the related genus Pangasius.

Akysis macronema. This diminutive catfish was described from 4 specimens from the river at Lahat, Sumatra, in 1860. Apparently no other specimens have ever been recorded. Weber and Beaufort (Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago, II, p. 373, 1913) reported that Bleeker's specimens in the Leyden Museum were in such a bad condition that they were of no value in determining the validity of the species, which they regarded as doubtful. The principal differences distingishing A. macronema from A. variegatus from Java, according to Bleeker, are a more slender form (depth of body 7.5 times in total length as against 5.5 to 6.3 times), longer barbels (the supramaxillary barbel reaching, the tip of the pectoral spine as against the base of that spine in variegatus), the absence of a tooth at the anterior base of the dorsal and pectoral spines, the posterior border of the pectoral spine armed with 3 to 5 teeth (as against none in variegatus), and smaller adipose fin. Eight specimens of Akysis, the largest 3.4 cm. long, from the Chantabun River north of the city, taken February 7, 1927, and locally called pla kayuy, agree with macronema in their slender form, in the presence of 4 or 5 rather large teeth on the basal part of the posterior border of the pectoral spine, and in other characters. A single specimen 4 cm. long from the Talubun district of Pattani, Peninsular Siam, taken on July 25, 1930, and called pla sam keo, shows 6 or 7 well developed teeth on the basal part of the posterior border of the pectoral spine, in this respect resembling Vaillant's Akysis armatus from the Mahakam River in Borneo which has 8 or 9 strong teeth on the pectoral spine. The foregoing facts seem to justify the present retention of Akysis macronema as a valid species, although the specific name is without much significance, as Bleeker's figures show the maxillary barbels in macronema shorter than in variegatus.

Amblyceps mangois. This is a little catfish heretofore known

from India and Burma. It has been taken in widely separated places in Siam, and will doubtless be found to have a general distribution in suitable waters. In mountain streams near Pak Jong on the eastern railway line it was taken during the years 1925, 1927, and 1929; in Tadi Stream, flowing through the town of Nakon Sritamarat from the mountains lying to the west, it was collected at several points in 1928; and in the Chantabun River a single specimen was obtained in 1928. Its maximum length is about 12 cm. It bites viciously and can live out of water for a long time.

Hemisilurus scleronema. This curious catfish, belonging to a genus hitherto known only from Sumatra, Java, and Borneo, is represented by a single specimen in a large collection of fishes from the Nakon Nayok River exhibited by Boy Scout Suang Boonsantob in the Boy Scouts' Jamboree held in Bangkok in January, 1931. The fish was collected on December 25, 1929, and bears the name of *pla sa'yu* in the Nakon Nayok region. This specimen is 19 cm. long, but in Java the fish réaches a length of 40 cm.

THE STATUS OF CATLA AS A SIAMESE FISH.

The well-known fresh-water fish called *pla kaho* is the largest cyprinoid species in Siam and one of the largest in the world. There are definite records of fish 2.5 metres in length, and fish up to 3 metres in length have undoubtedly been caught. The fish is easily recognizable by its enormous head and large scales; scales from the back of a fish 1 meter long may be 8.5 cm. long and 8 cm wide. There is a large mass of adenoid tissue on the roof of the mouth just anterior to the esophagus, and it is said that one of the early kings of Siam was very fond of this mass as a food morsel.

The zoological status of this species in Siam has been uncertain. In his Fishes of India (1878-1888), Day gave the range of *Catla buchanani* (properly called *Catla catla*) as "Sind, Punjab, through India to the Kistna and eastwards through Bengal, and Burma to Siam". It is not known on what Day based his statement that the fish occurs in Siam. The first published reference to the fish in Siam appears to be in Dr. Sunder Lal Hora's "On a Collection of Fish from Siam" in the Journal of the Natural History of Siam

(VI, No. 2, 1923). In that paper the fish is listed from Nontaburi, on the Menam Chao Phya a short distance above Bangkok, and the local name of *pla kaho* is assigned to it. Prince Vipulya in an article entitled "Notes on Rod Fishing Bangkok" in the same number of that journal has a paragraph on "Pla ka-ho (*Catla catla*)." In a number of papers by the present writer there are references to *pla kaho* under the identification of *Catla catla*.

The specimens referred to in the paper by Hora have been re-examined by him at my request and found to be not *Catla* catla but *Catlocarpio siamensis*, a new genus and species described by Boulenger in 1898, based on a single specimen from the Menam Chao Phya presented to the British Museum by the Siamese Museum; and all the examples of pla kaho that the present writer has met with in various parts of Siam and all the specimens in the collection of the Siamese Department of Fisheries belong to Boulenger's species. A mounted specimen about a meter long labeled Catla and presumably taken in the Mekong is exhibited in the Economic Museum in Pnom-Penh, Cambodia; this fish is a *Catlocarpio*.

Catla and Catlocarpio have a strong superficial resemblance, and one may easily be mistaken for the other. The outstanding differences are that Catla has 14 to 16 branched rays in the dorsal fin as against only 9 in Catlocarpio, and Catla has 10 teeth arranged in 3 rows on each side of the pharynx while Catlocarpio has only 4 in one row.

Cyprinoid fishes not previously recorded from Siam.

Probarbus jullieni. In 1880 Sauvage described this fish from French Laos, presumably from the Mekong. In the intervening years there has been little or nothing published regarding it.

Under the distinctive name of *pla eesok*, this fish is known in Siam from the Menam Chao Phya and the Menam Meklong. For at least fifty years it has not been abundant, or even common, and in recent years it has been comparatively scarce. It has always been more numerous in the Menam Meklong than in the Menam Chao Phya, as it prefers sandy to muddy bottom, and of late the fish has been quite rare in the latter stream. The Department of Fisheries

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has only one definite record for the Menam Chao Phya, a fish 23 cm. long taken at Nontaburi October 22, 1926; but there are various records for the Meklong, including a specimen 31 cm. long taken at Bang Pong on November 16, 1926, and two others 23.7 and 24 cm. long collected at Rajaburi on October 10, 1930, by Boy Scout Tuan, who calls the fish *pla eesok tong*.

The fish has a rich creamy yellow color, and the body is marked by six to eight black longitudinal lines along the rows of scales; the head is bright greenish-yellow; the rays are pinkish and the membranes blackish; the iris is red. On both rivers the fish is very highly esteemed as food, and on the Meklong is the most celebrated local fish, commanding in the markets a price two or three times as much as the *pla kapong (Lates calcarifer)*, which is the standard high-priced fish. In 1923 an official at Rajaburi paid 17 ticals for a *pla eesok* 85 cm. long, or at the rate of 1 tical per 1.2 kilograms. The largest fish attain a length of a meter. A fish seen alive at Rajaburi September 27, 1929, was 86 cm. long; it had been caught on a line baited with a rice ball. A fish seen alive at Sai Yok on September 23, 1929, was 60 cm. long; it had been taken on a hook baited with a worm.

Little information about this interesting fish is available. Although it has been taken near the mouths of the two large rivers indicated, it does not go to sea; and it is known to ascend the west branch (Kwe Noi) of the Meklong as far as the rapids above Sai Yok, where it has been caught in cast nets in the dry season. It is said to spawn in the vicinity of Rajaburi, but there is no definite information on this point. The smallest fish seen by the writer were 20 cm. long.

Labeobarbus tambroides, L. soro, and L. duoronensis. The most celebrated fish in the Petchaburi River in Western Siam, called *pla wien*, has been identified as *Labeobarbus tambroides*. It is known also from Sumatra, Borneo, and Java, but there appears to be no definite published record of its occurrence in Siam^{*}. The British

^{*} Hora, Fish of the Tale Sap, Peninsular Siam, part I, 1924, doubtfully identified as representing this species a large dried skin obtained by the late Dr. Annandale at the mouth of the Patalung River, in the inner lake.

Museum contains a specimen collected by Mr. Arthur S. Vernay in the Mewang River, Central Siam; and it is possible to make another Siamese citation because of a specimen now in the Department of Fisheries collected by Mr. R. Havmöller in Klong Sok, one of the upper tributaries of the west branch of the Tapi River, in the changwad of Bandon, Peninsular Siam.

The fish seems to be nowhere abundant in Siam, and is best known in the Petchaburi River where it has the same reputation as a food fish that *pla eesok (Probarbus jullieni)* enjoys in the Meklong. It attains a length of 50 cm., and specimens forwarded to the Department of Fisheries by the Governor of Petchaburi were 35 cm. long. In the Dutch East Indies, however, the fish is reported up to 70 cm. long. During the dry season the *pla wien* is found in the Petchaburi River as far up as Ban Sarahet, which in the flood season is five days by poling boat or sixteen hours by motor launch from Petchaburi. The fish descends the river when the floods come and goes as far as its mouth but not into sea; and after about two months of high water it again goes up-stream and remains for several months in the section above the town of Petchaburi, laying its eggs in July near the mouths of small streams up which the young subsequently go.

According to the local people, the flavor of *pla wien* is delicious and superior to that of any other fish known to them. The largest fish are the best, and a price of 6 to 8 ticals each is usually obtained. The supply has not varied much in recent years, and not more than 20 fish are now caught annually at Petchaburi. A fisherman interviewed in 1926 was using a line with two small hooks on a bamboo spreader, the hooks baited with a cake made from the fruit of the sugar palm mixed with rice flour; this cake is prepared and used only as bait for *pla wien*. In 1925 this fisherman caught only three fish during the entire season.

Two other species of Labeobarbus may now be recorded from Siam. *Labeobarbus soro*, reaching nearly a meter in length and heretofore reported only from Sumatra and Java, is added to the local fauna by a specimen collected in April, 1925, in a waterfall stream on Kao Sabab, near Chantabun, Southeastern Siam, by Luang

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Masya Chitrakarn of the Department of Fisheries. In the Chantabun region the fish bears the name of *pla pluang hin*. *Labeobarbus duoronensis*, a common fish in Java, Borneo, and Sumatra, was found to have a place in the fauna of Siam when Annandale and Robinson collected in the Pattani River, Peninsular Siam, three specimens that are now in the British Museum.

Mystacoleucus marginatus. This is a common fish in Sumatra and Java, and is recorded also from Borneo and Malacea. In Siam it is a common, widely distributed species ranging over almost the entire length of the country from north to south but as yet unknown from Southeastern Siam and from waters tributary to the Mekong. Specimens in the collection of the Department of Fisheries are from the Meping at Chiengmai, the Mewang at Lampang, the Menam Nan at Hua Vieng, the west branch of the Meklong, the Tapi River, various small streams in Nakon Sritamarat, and a small hill stream in Patalung. The British Museum contains specimens from the Mewang collected by Mr. Arthur Vernay and from the Pattani River collected by Annandale and Robinson. In Northern Siam the fish is called *pla khi yok* and *pla nam bi*, while in Peninsular Siam the name *pla ya* is in common use.

The genus Mystacoleucus of Günther has as a characteristic feature a procumbent spine lying along the back in front of the dorsal fin, together with 4 barbels in the Siamese species and 2 or no barbels in the remaining species (*padangensis*) known only from Sumatra. In 1889 Day (Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma, Fishes, Vol. I) described the genus Matsya to accommodate a small fish (*M. argentea*), very common in streams in the interior of Tenasserim, having no barbels and a forward-directed spine on the back at the base of the dorsal fin. No characters are ascribed to Matsya by Day that are not possessed by Mystacoleucus, and it is altogether probable that the two are identical. Day did not describe the pharyngeal teeth, which must be determined before a final decision is made. No specimens of *Matsya argentea* are in the Indian Museum in Calcutta, and Day's types will probably be found somewhere in Europe.

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Cyclocheilichthys heteronema. Previously known only from rivers in Borneo and from Malacca, this curious species has been found to be very abundant in Tale Noi, the small, shallow lake connected by short, narrow klongs with the inner lake of Tale Sap, near Patalung. The fish is one of the commonest of the local fishes, but owing to its small size it is easily overlooked; the largest specimens measure 11 cm. in length. The characteristic feature is a palmate barbel with about 7 branches at each corner of the mouth.

Albulichthys albuloides. This rather large species has heretofore been known only from Borneo and Sumatra. There is only one representative of the genus, which is characterized by a broad, annular, adipose eyelid, absence of barbels, brilliant silvery coloration, etc. It was first met with in Siam in August, 1923, when 5 specimens, the largest 9 cm. long, were collected in the Menam Chao Phya at Paknam. One of these, sent to the Zoological Museum in Amsterdam, was thus identified by Dr. L. F. de Beaufort. In February, 1925, a specimen 13 cm. long from local waters of the Menam Chao Phya was found in a market in Bangkok. A specimen 28 cm. long was taken in the Menam Chao Phya at Koh Yai, March 23, 1928, and two specimen were taken in the Nakon Navok River June 6, 1928, the larger a female 22 cm. long. All of the 9 specimens from Siamese waters have small but distinct rostral and maxillary barbels, a feature which necessitates a modification in the definition of the genus Albulichthys. Whether the barbels are absent in fish from Borneo and Sumatra or have simply been overlooked remains to be determined.

Crossocheilus reba and C. oblongus. The well-marked cyprinoid genus Crossocheilus has not heretofore been recorded from Siam, its ascribed range embracing India, Burma, Malacca, and the Indo-Australian Archipelago. Crossocheilus reba, which occurs throughout India, is represented in the collection of the Siamese Department of Fisheries by numerous specimens taken in the Sikuk River, Central Siam, on November 26, 1923. The river was then teeming with this fish, of which schools migrating upstream often extended in a solid mass from the shores far out into the stream and along the banks for several hundred yards in an unbroken body. The largest individuals were 8 cm. long. The local name for the fish is *pla soi*, shared by various other small members of the family in Central Siam. Two examples sent to the British Museum in 1930 were examined by Mr. J. R. Norman, regarded by him as probably identical with *C. reba*, and found to agree very closely with a young specimen of *C. reba* collected by Mouhot in what at the time was a part of Siam. *Crossocheilus oblongus*, heretofore known only from Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Malacca, is represented by a specimen 10.4 cm. long taken from Tadi Stream, west of the town of Nakon Sritamarat, Peninsular Siam, on July 15, 1928.

Epalzeorhynchus kalopterus. The strongly differentiated Bleekerian genus Epalzeorhynchus was until recently known only from a single species (kalopterus) inhabiting rivers in Sumatra and Borneo. In 1931* a second species (siamensis) was recorded from Siam, and it is now possible to bring Siam within the range of the original species through the taking of two fine specimens 14.5 and 11.7 cm. long in Klong Sok, an upper tributary of the west branch of the Tapi River, in the changwad of Bandon, Peninsular Siam. These fish were collected by Mr. R. Havmöller in 1929 and by him presented to the Department of Fisheries. They are typical as to color and possess 4 barbels (while siamensis has only 2), but they do not show any line of demarcation between snout and upper lip as represented in Weber and Beaufort's figure (Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago, III, p. 229), and the head in both specimens is thickly beset with minute tubercles which, in the larger fish, are prickly.

RESPIRATORY MOVEMENTS IN GYRINOCHEILUS.

Gyrinocheilus kaznakoi is one of the most peculiar cyprinoid fishes of Siam. Originally described by Berg in 1906 from Pailin, Cambodia, formerly a part of Southeastern Siam, the fish has since been collected in the Menam Chao Phya at Nontaburi and Paknam; in Bung Borapet and klongs draining that swamp, Central Siam; in

^{*} Descriptions of New Genera and Species of Siamese Fishes, by Hugh M. Smith, Proceedings U. S. National Museum, vol. 79, pp. 1-48.

mountain streams in the Pak Jong district, Central Siam; in the Menam Pong at Udon, Northeastern Siam; in mountain streams in Peninsular Siam east of Bandon; in the Menam Wang at Lampang, Northern Siam; and in the Meklong at Potaram and in the west branch of the Meklong north of Kanburi in Western Siam. In lifferent parts of its range in Siam it is called *pla rak kluey*, *pla park tai*, *pla mood*, *pla püng*, and *pla luk püng*, names borne by no other fish. Some authorities place this species, and the closely related one, *G. pustulosus*, inhabiting streams in Borneo, in a district family (Gyrinocheilidae), based in part on the extraordinary mouth structure, absence of pharyngeal teeth, and modification of the respiratory apparatus.

This fish is a vegetarian, and its mouth parts are adapted for scraping algae from stones and other submerged objects. The same mouth structure acting as a kind of sucker enables the fish to maintain itself in flowing water by adhering to stones or wood. Observations on small fish in aquaria with still water indicate that the fish when resting prefer to attach themselves to the bottom even in the complete absence of current, and a favorite attitude, assumed for protracted periods, is a vertical position against the glass front of the aquarium several feet above the bottom. Notwithstanding the possession of a swim bladder, the fish is unable to maintain itself off the bottom except by active swimming movements of fins and tail.

With the mouth employed as a sucking organ it is obvious that the circulation of water through the mouth and gills, as in ordinary fishes, is impossible, and if there were no other means by which respiration could be effected the fish would have to release its hold in order to breathe. To meet this situation, the branchial openings are modified in a remarkable way. There is the usual exhalent aperture closed by a broad opercular flap, which is restricted chiefly to the region above the pectoral fins, a very short portion extending on to the broad ventral surface before and below, the pectoral base. Just above the exhalent opening is a deep, narrow, nearly vertical slit which communicates with the posterior part of the mouth cavity immediately in front of the gills and is an inhalent opening. This slit, whose length exceeds the diameter of the eye, is closed by a delicate velum attached to the anterior wall, while the free upper end of the curved opercular flap extends along the lower third of the posterior wall of the slit. In a fish 24 cm. long, the slit is 7 mm. long and 2 mm. wide.

The amount of water which may enter the inhalent opening is limited, and, in order to secure the influx of sufficient oxygenbearing water in a given time, the respiratory movements are extremely rapid. Observations made on fishes up to 12 cm. length in a large aquarium in which they have been for a number of months in a perfectly sound condition show a respiratory rate of 230 per minute, as evidenced by the movements of the opercular flap.

Inasmuch as this fish uses its suctorial mouth to maintain itself in position even in still water, it would seem that it may have lost the ability to breathe like ordinary fishes and always relies on its inhalent pores.

GOBIES NEW TO THE FAUNA OF SIAM.

Apocryptichthys cantoris. Described by Day in 1870 from the coast of Madras and the Andaman Islands and heretofore known only from those places, it is interesting to record the taking of three specimens 7.5 to 8.3 cm. long in the Gulf of Siam off the mouth of the Meklong on July 26 and 27, 1923.

Gnatholepis calliurus. This species, heretofore known only from the Philippines and British North Borneo, is represented in the collection of the Siamese Department of Fisheries by two specimens, male and female, taken in salt water in Pattani, Peninsular Siam, October 10, 1927.

Taenioides cirratus. Originally described from the Hooghli River, India, this fish ranges through the East Indies to the Philippines, and is now recorded for the first time from Siam. Following up a newspaper account of the capture of an "electric fish" and its exhibition as such in Rajaburi, the Department of Fisheries sent Luang Masya Chitrakarn to investigate. He learned that the fish had been taken in a klong off the Meklong, in the changwad of Samud Sakorn, on October 5, 1929; it was caught on a muddy bank by a woman using a line. The fish had been in a spirited fight with a snake (ngu kon kob), and the snake was found dead. The investigator was permitted to handle the fish but was warned that he might receive a great shock which, of course, was not forthcoming. The fish was of a pale vellow color throughout, with a series of 21 small, roundish yellowish-brown spots extending along the side, the first under the first dorsal spine, the last at the base of the caudal fin. The fins were the same color as the body, except that the caudal was brownish-yellow with a blackish tip. Dorsal rays VI, 46; anal rays 40 to 42. Length over all, 38 cm.; length to base of caudal, 34.25 cm.; depth at origin of dorsal fin, 2.2 cm. The greatest length recorded for this fish in India by Day is 25 cm., and in the Philippines by Herre is 18.2 cm. The Siamese specimen may represent the maximum size attained. The owner of the fish in Rajaburi was offered 5 ticals for the fish as a specimen, but his price was 600 ticals.

Scartelaos viridis. Siam is within the limits of the known range of this goby, which is from eastern India to China, but there is no published record of its actual occurrence in Siam. In a tidal ditch at Lem Sing, Southeastern Siam, a specimen 6.1 cm. long was taken on March 16, 1930. The fish is apparently quite rare in local waters.

HERREOLUS, A NEW NAME FOR A GOBIOID GENUS.

In the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, vol. 79, article 7, page 40, 1931, the present writer applied the name *Herrea* to a new genus of diminutive Siamese gobies. It appears, however, that Whitley (Australian Zoology, 6, 1930) had already given this name as a substitute for the Philippine genus *Galera* bestowed by Herre in 1927 (Gobies of the Philippines and China Sea), the latter name being preoccupied. For the preoccupied *Herrea*, the name *Herreolus* is now proposed.