

NOTE ON SOME FRESHWATER FISHES OF KOH SAMUI
AND KOH PA-NGAN, GULF OF SIAM.

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The large islands Koh Samui and Pa-ngan, situated in the Gulf of Siam off the coast of Monthon Nakon Sritamarat, have very little fresh water, and this is mostly in small, precipitous mountain streams. On Koh Samui the streams are known as Klong Pak Yai and Nam Tok Na Muang (Na Muang Waterfall), and in Klong Pak Yai there are pretty waterfalls. The streams on Koh Pa-ngan are known as Tan Prapat and Tan Sadet, and these also contain waterfalls. The latter is of historical interest, for it was visited by H. M. the late King Chulalongkorn and H. M. the present King.

In the course of our sponge investigation around Koh Samui and Koh Pa-ngan in May and July, 1931, we took opportunities to collect freshwater fishes on these islands. We were particularly interested to obtain specimens from mountain streams. We were informed that common fishes, such as pla mor, pla salid, pla duk, pla chon, etc., were found at times, but we were not able to obtain any except a tiny pla chon (*Ophicephalus striatus*).

The collection contains two specimens of a loach (*Nemacheilus*) and five of a goby (*Vaimosa*). They appear to be new and need further examination, so that they are not included in this note.

In 1930, Luang Ananta Matsayapitaks, of the Department of Fisheries, collected a few freshwater fishes on these islands, and his specimens have been included in this list.

We are thankful to Dr. Hugh M. Smith for his kind suggestions in the preparation of this note.

Betta taeniata Regan. Pla kad (ปลากัด)

Ten specimens were collected at Bor Pud, Koh Samui; six of them measured from 37 to 43 mm.; four were immature, measuring from 17 to 24 mm. The fish showed two obscure, dark lateral bands: one from base of caudal to snout, passing through eye, the other below, running from head to base of caudal.

Previous Siamese records for *B. taeniata* were from Nakon Sritamarat and Chantabun.¹

Danio albolineata (Blyth).

Two specimens were taken in the stream below the Na Muang Waterfall, Koh Samui. The larger one is 34 mm. long.

Danio malabarica (Jerdon).

According to Day, this fish is limited to the west coast of India and Ceylon, and attains a length of six inches.

Five specimens were collected from Klong Pak Yai, below a fall, at Tambol Ban Natawn, Koh Samui. Two were 10 cm. long, the others averaged 65 mm. long. The fish is locally called pla siew bai pai, ปลาชีวไบไซ. Nine specimens, ranging from 30 to 67 mm. long, were collected on Koh Samui by Luang Ananta in 1930.

The fish is distinguished from *D. aequipinnata*, reported by Dr. Hora from Nakon Sritamarat Mountains², by barbels which are sometimes rudimentary, greater depth, and 4 bluish lateral bands.

Monopterus albus (Zuiew). Pla lai (ปลาไหล)

This species is commonly known throughout the country. A specimen 35 cm. long was obtained on Koh Pa-ngan.

Ophecephalus striatus Bloch. Pla chon (ปลาช่อน)

One specimen 53 mm. long was obtained from Klong Pak Yai, at Ban Natawn, Koh Samui. Local people said they formerly obtained large marketable fish from the same klong.

Panchax panchax (Hamilton). Pla hua ngern (ปลาหัวเงิน)

This fish is commonly known as pla hua takua or pla hua ngern. It is found in fresh and brackish water throughout Siam.

Seven specimens, about 49 mm. in length, were taken in a tide pool on Koh Samui. In 1930 Luang Ananta secured one specimen from Koh Pa-ngan.

Puntius binotatus (Cuvier and Valenciennes).

This fish is known from Singapore, Java, Borneo, Banka,

¹ Smith, H. M.: *Journ. Siam Soc., Nat. Hist. Suppl.*, 1929, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 12-13.

² Hora, S. L.: *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, 1923, Vol. VI, p. 153.

Malacca, and Philippines. In Siam, it has been found in the Wang River and as far south as Nakon Sritamarat.

Two specimens, about 85 mm. long, were obtained from Klong Pak Yai, Ban Natawn, Koh Samui. It is known locally as pla klet-ma-na (ปลาเกล็ดแม่น้ำ).

On Koh Pa-ngan the fish is common in the mountain stream Tan Sadet, and one specimen, 50 mm. long, was taken there.

The spots, one on each side at the base of dorsal and on the base of caudal, are very prominent in the specimens from both islands. There is no detectable variation in color and body form in the specimens from the two localities.

Rasbora lateristriata (Bleeker).

In Weber and de Beaufort's "The Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago", 1916, Vol. III, *Rasbora lateristriata* is recorded from Java, Sumatra, and Borneo.

A variety (*sumatrana*) was recorded by Dr. Hora from the Tale Sap.¹

The examples obtained from these two islands are *R. lateristriata*, forma typica. Four specimens were taken in the stream below the Na Muang Waterfall, Koh Samui; the largest individual is 54 mm. long. Two other specimens were collected from the Tan Sadet Stream, Koh Pa-ngan; the larger one measures 71 mm. long.

¹ Hora, S. L.: Memoirs Asiatic Soc. Bengal, 1924, Vol. 6, p. 469.

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