

NOTES ON FISHES ALONG THE RIVER KWAE NOI
IN WESTERN THAILAND. 3.

by

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The reader is referred to the general remarks in the paper No. 1 of the same title as above (Johnsen 1963). Like the first and second notes on the fishes from Kwae Noi also this is the result of the Thai-Danish Prehistoric Expedition.

Cultrops siamensis (Hora)

Rather frequent at Sai Yok. Smith (1945) states maximal total length as 235 mm, but it appears that the species will grow even bigger as I have collected one measuring 276 mm.

Material: No. 177.	Kwae Noi at Sai Yok	21.12.61	SL	235 mm
— 164.	— — — — —	19.12.61	TL	214 mm
— 624.	— — — — —	4.1.62	TL	276 mm (skeleton)

Osteochilus spilopleura Flower. Fig. 1

Among the East Asiatic Cyprinidae some species have a number of dark spots on the side of the body above the pectoral fins. This is the case in *Labeo melanostigma* (Fowler & Bean 1922). *L. stigmopleura* Fowler, *Osteochilus melanopleura* (Bleeker), *O. duostigma* Fowler, and *O. lini* Fowler. Amongst the author's material from Kwae Noi were 5 specimens, plus one skeleton, of a species likewise with such dark spots across lateral line above pectoral. It did not fit with description and pictures of any of the above mentioned fish whereas it seemed to conform rather well with *Osteochilus spilopleura* Fowler 1936.

The holotype of this species is kept in the Department of Ichthyology, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, USA. My material was sent there for comparison with the holotype. The comparison was undertaken by dr. *James E. Böhlke*, a service for which I am most grateful. The conclusion of this comparison is: "What is left on the type looks like — my — specimens and drawings. I would certainly guess that they are the same species". (Böhlke in litt.).

When I was eager to have my specimens compared to the type, it was because the original description, based on one specimen only, did not fit completely with my material.

One thing in the original description, which did not conform with my material, was the number and arrangement of pearl organs on snout. In his diagnosis Fowler (1936) states "two series of rather large, close set pearl organs, 5 in upper and 4 in lower, not extending laterally beyond rostral barbels" Böhlke (in litt.) states after re-examination of holotype "pearl organs not too distinct, but there seems to be two rows of 4 tubercles". As pointed out and pictured in the first of these notes (Johnsen 1963) in case of *Labiobarbus burmanicus* (Day) there exist in one and the same species a great variation in number and development of the pearl organs with tubercles, so the diagnostic value of number and arrangement of these organs will be questionable. Even if my specimens do not conform with original description in this respect I do not take this as a sign of real difference.

I have pictured the snout tubercles in all my 5 preserved specimens in Fig. 2. In each sketch the dorsal margin of orifice is indicated as the lowermost line. The position of the tubercles is also seen from the rostral barbels in the sketches. My journal No. 82 is the one closest to the condition described by Fowler by possessing 9 tubercles, which with some good will could be said to be arranged in "two series" with 5 in upper and 4 in lower series. But as seen from Fig. 2 none of my other species exposes similar conditions. The number of tubercles varies from 4 to 17, and it is not appropriate to talk about arrangement in series. The tubercles must rather be described as arranged scattered in an oblong patch or cluster.

Fowler's colour description was based on one dead, preserved fish, and is fully in accordance with my specimens preserved in formaldehyde. I made fieldnotes on colour supported by kodachrome picture of live fish, and as to be expected in this case there exist differences from Fowler's description. He states: "Back olive, sides and below paler, evidently whitish in life". The fresh fish is clearly silvery on sides except at the base of scales, where there is a dark spot. The preserved fish has pectorals, ventrals, and anal pale to whitish. In the fresh fish these fins are reddish. The pectorals were not so brilliant in the red colour as the anal and ventrals.

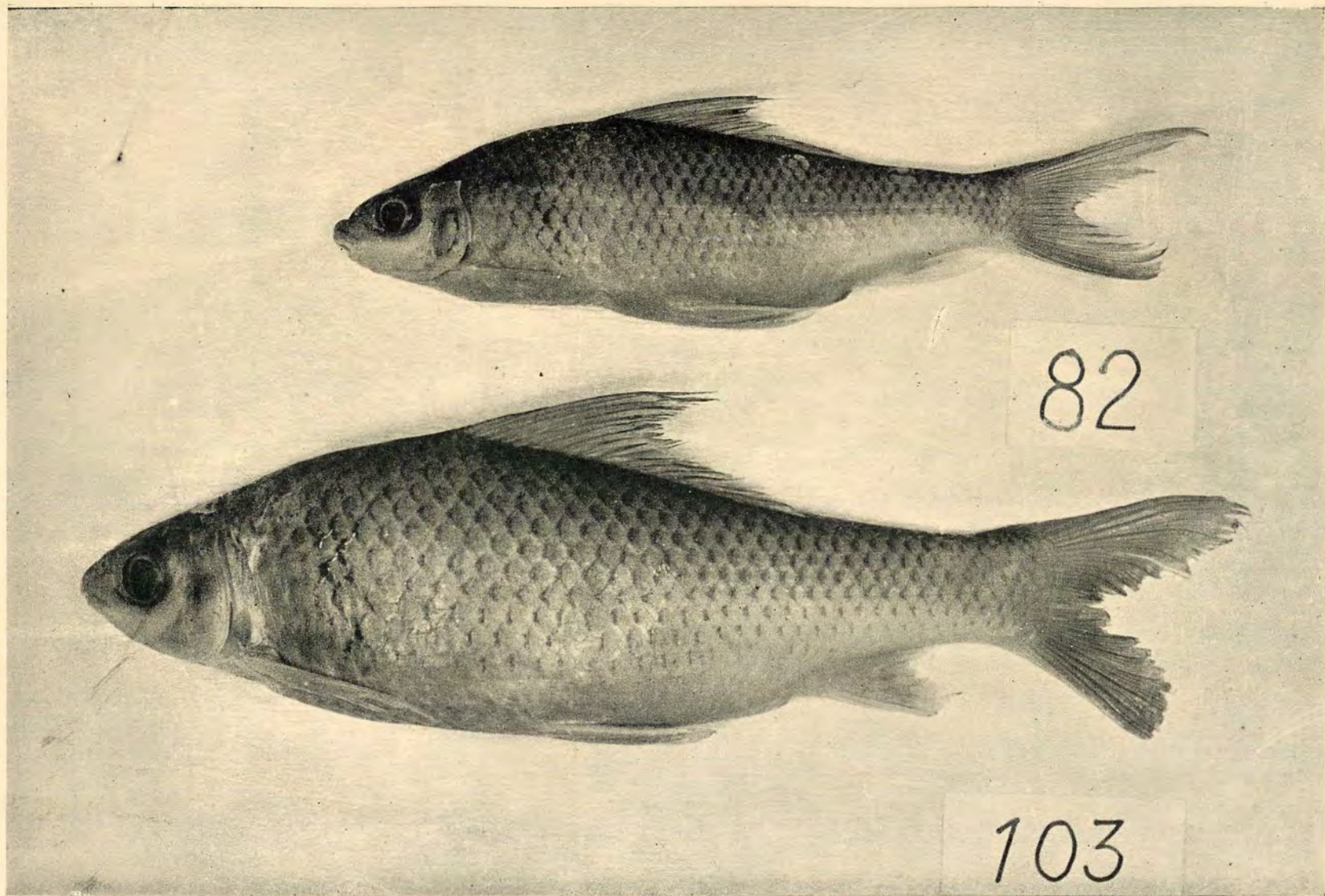


Fig. 1 *Osteochilus spilopleura* Fowler. Formaldehyde preparation. M. Thaarup phot.

The Fig. 53 associated with original description (Fowler 1935) of *O. spilopleura* shows a rather short caudal about same length as head. My specimens with only little damaged caudal, have this much longer than head. The length of caudal in holotype could, when reexamined, not be stated, as it was worn off, but the remaining portion was much longer than head, and a significant amount must be missing. Fowler's Figure thus is erroneous in respect of length of caudal. It has not been accurately drawn from nature but is reconstructed-no doubt underestimating the amount worn off.

The number of circumpeduncular scales is not stated in original description. It was by reexamination of holotype found to be 18, and the same was the case in the five specimens from Kwae Noi. Smith (1945) has investigated one specimen, which he refers to *O. spilopleura*: as "it agrees fairly well with Fowler's description". Smith found 20 circumpeduncular scales.

Fowler found 35 scales in lateral line. This count could not be checked in holotype as anterior scales are rubbed off on both sides. My specimens had 36-37. Fowler gives number of predorsal scales as 12. This count could not be checked in holotype as anterior half is rubbed off.

The pharyngeal teeth is by Fowler formulated as 2, 3, 5-5, 3, 2. I found as pictured in Fig. 3 2, 4, 5-5, 4, 2. Böhlke (in litt.) found that the holotype had many of the pharyngeal teeth missing, so it was not possible to get a certain count, but there may have been as many as counted by me, but he also found that the shape of the bone and the remaining teeth of holotype are just as indicated on my Fig. 3.

In consequence of the above I therefore refer my specimens to *O. spilopleura*.

One of the specimens had a small leech attached to dorsal fin.

A constriction separates a cranial smaller part from a larger caudal part.

A local man gave the trivial Thai-name as pla soi klě.

Material: No.	82.	Kwae Noi at Sai Yok	13.12.61	TL 187 mm
—	52	— — — Ban Kao	25.11.61	TL 200 mm
—	101	— — — Sai Yok	13.12.61	TL 235 mm
—	86	— — — — —	13.12.61	TL 242 mm
—	103	— — — — —	14.12.61	TL 257 mm
—	169	— — — — —	20.12.61	skeleton

Epalzeorhynchus kalliurus Smith

I captured one with dip-net in the very same locality as *E. siamensis*. Scales along lateral line 33. The species has been found in Borneo also, and here scales in lateral line are 30-33 (Inger & Chin Phui Kong) instead of 28 as in type. The Figure given by Inger is much more like the habitus of my specimen than the Figure given by Smith (1945). The maxillary barbels in my specimen extremely short, not exposed but hidden in fold

Material: No. 834. Kwae Noi near Lawa Cave 27.1.62 TL 67 mm

Epalzeorhynchus siamensis Smith

Two caught in dip-net in rapid part of Kwae Noi, where the water was about ankle deep only. Many more were seen here. In less rapid stream the species was observed "climbing" dead, submerged branches, sometimes upside down, as if adhering to the surface of the branch.

Material: No. 833. Kwae Noi near Lawa Cave 27.1.62 TL 70 mm

— 835 — — — — — — — TL 68 mm

Literature

- Fowler, H.** 1936. Zool. Results of the 3rd de Schauensee Siamese Exp. Part 6. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 87.
- Inger & Chin Phui Kong.** 1962. The Fresh-Water Fishes of North Borneo. Fieldiana: Zoologi 45.
- Johnsen, P.** 1963. Notes on fishes along the river Kwae Noi in Western Thailand. Nat. Hist. Bull. Siam Soc. 20(3).
- Smith, H.** 1945. The freshwater fishes of Siam. Smithsonian Inst. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 188.

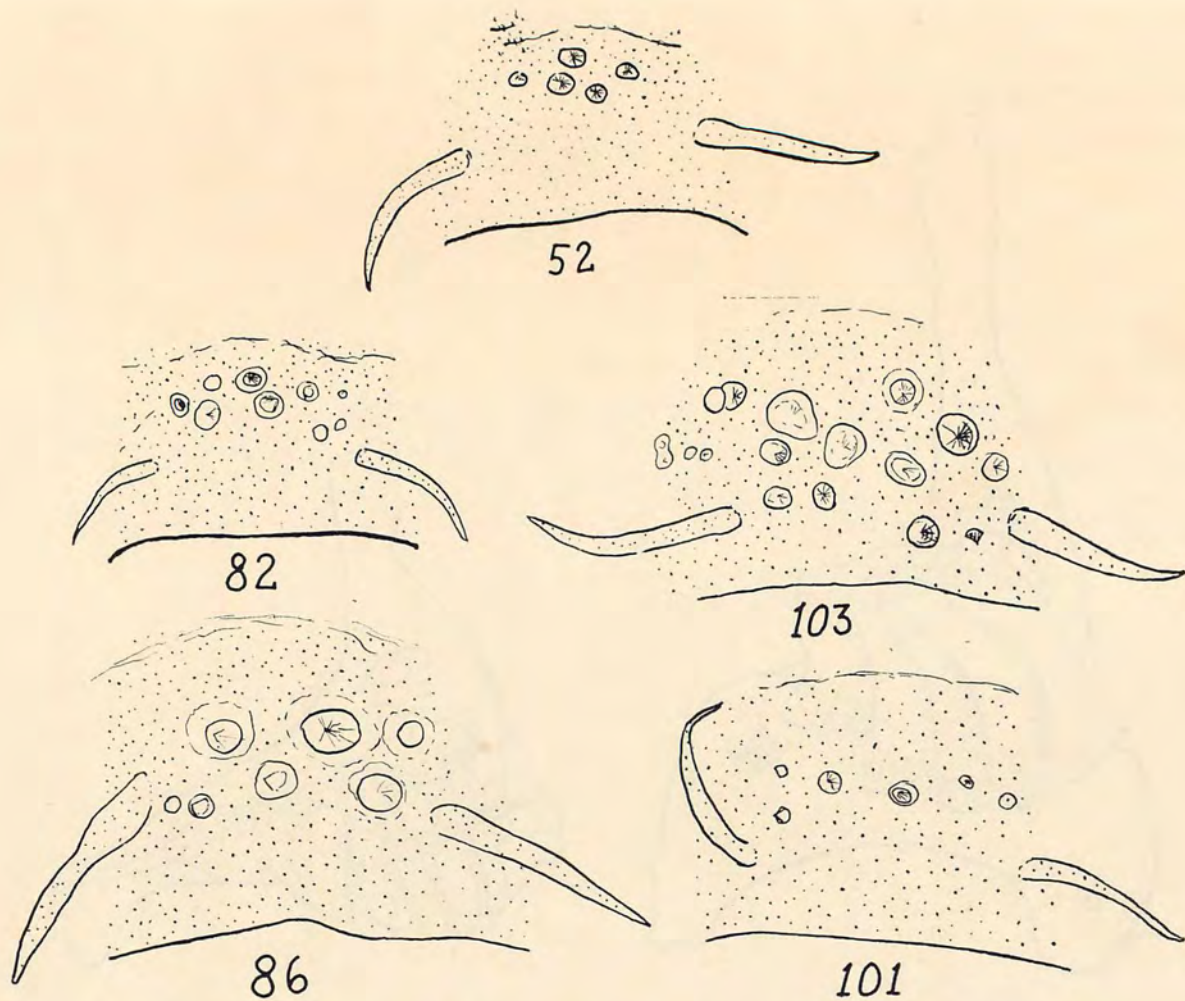


Fig. 2 *Osteochilus spilopleura* Fowler. Pearl organs in five specimen to illustrate individual variation. The numbers are the authors journal Nos. The location is evident from the pair of rostral barbels and the upper lip, also drawn. P.J. del.

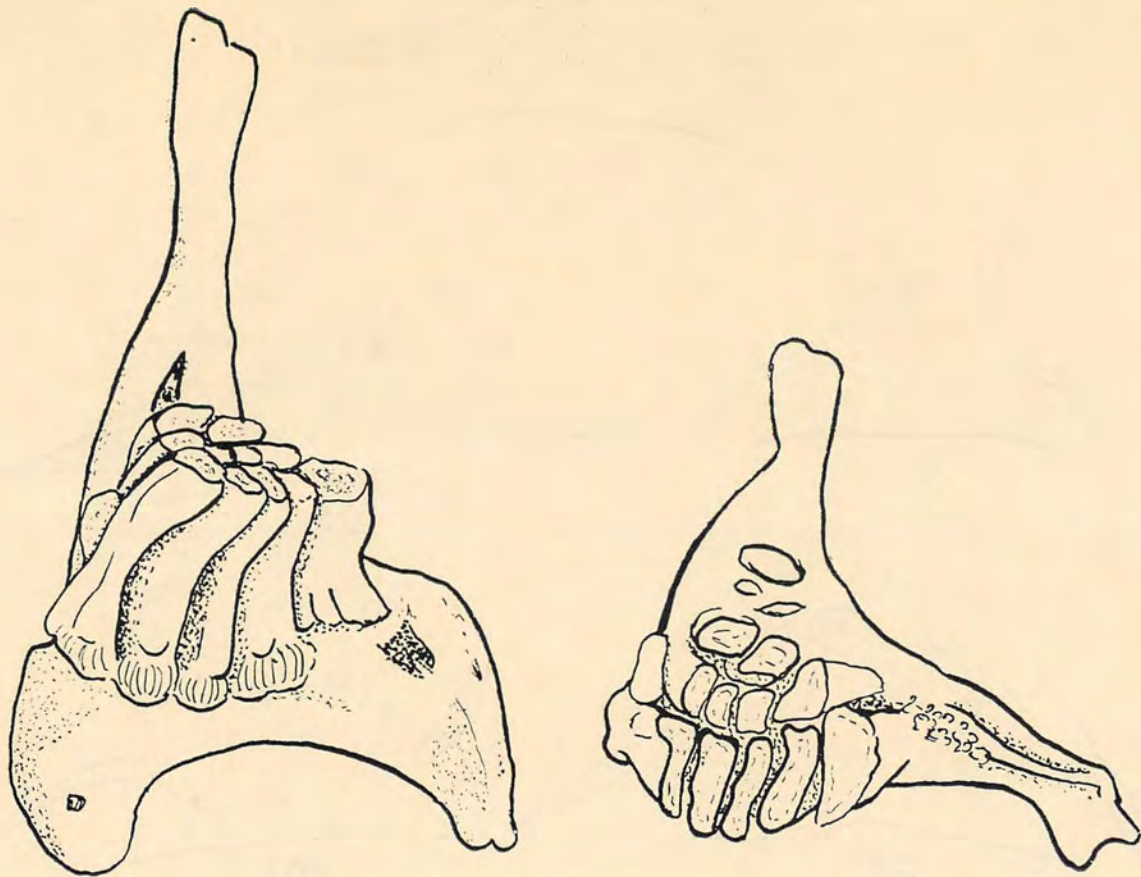


Fig. 3 *Osteochilus spilopleura* Fowler. Pharyngeal teeth. The figure to the right seen down on the grinding surface of the teeth. P.J. del.