

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *PUNTIUS* (HAMILTON) (PISCES:
CYPRINIFORMES: CYPRINIDAE) FROM WESTERN INDIA¹

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(With a text-figure)

INTRODUCTION

During intensive collection of fishes from in and around Poona, four specimens belonging to the genus *Puntius* were obtained, possessing an osseous serrated dorsal ray and a single pair of barbels. Till now, species with an osseous serrated dorsal ray and a single pair of barbels have not been reported from India. However one species, *P. macrolepidotus* (Cuv. & Val.) has been reported from Burma and Malay Peninsula. But the present species differs from it markedly in many characters. Amongst Indian species it resembles *Puntius ambassis* (Day). Detailed description of the species and characters differentiating it from related species are given here. A list of *Puntius* species known from India with their distribution and names of species synonymised under these species has also been appended to give upto date information regarding the species of this widely distributed genus.

Puntius deccanensis sp. nov.

MATERIAL:

Holotype 48 mm total length (37 mm standard length), Coll. C. B. Prasad, dated 20-7-1974. 2 paratypes of 45 mm and 42 mm total length (36 mm and 32 mm standard length respectively), Coll. C. B. Prasad, dated 20-7-

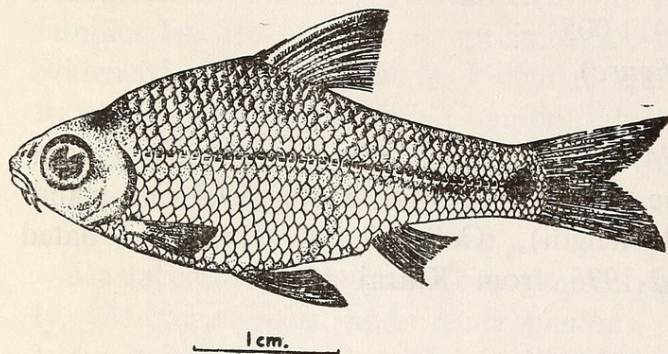
1974, all from Nalla near Katraj tank. 1 paratype of 36.5 mm total length (27.5 mm standard length), Coll. B. K. Tikader, dated 13-2-1976 from Katraj tank.

DESCRIPTION:

Body laterally compressed. Dorsal and ventral profiles convex. Head dorsoventrally compressed, pointing towards the snout. Eyes prominent situated towards the anterior half of head. One pair of maxillary barbels, smaller in length than eye diameter. Nasal pore prominent with a septum. Third dorsal ray robust, osseous and serrated but the serrated edge is covered by a thin layer of skin. Pectorals originate just behind opercular margin, but do not reach ventral origin. Origin of ventrals and dorsal from the same vertical line. Anal originates behind dorsal. Caudal emarginate. Along the lateral line, especially in the posterior half of the body a distinct longitudinal swelling is present in the form of a line, especially in bigger specimens. Lateral line complete. Dorsal half of head dark in colour. A diffuse dark brownish lateral band is present. Dorsally, pigmented dark brown, from the snout to the caudal fin, including the osseous dorsal ray. Pigmentation becoming lighter laterally and the central half of body more or less without pigmentation. A group of jet black spots are present on the caudal peduncle, laterally, near the origin of the caudal fin. Black coloration of the anterior region of the dorsal base. Otherwise fins colourless.

¹ Accepted June 1976.

Meristic counts and body measurements as percentages in standard length for the holotype and paratype (ranges for paratypes in parentheses):



Text-fig. 1. *Puntius deccanensis* sp. nov.

P. 11 (11-13); V. 9(9); D. iii + 9 (iii + 9); A. ii + 7 (ii + 7); C. + 19 + (+19+); L. 1. 44 (42-44).

In percentages of standard length; body depth 34.6 (30.2-34.7); head length 24.9 (25.6-26.3); eye diameter 9.5 (8.4-10.2); snout 7.0 (6.9-7.3); inter-orbital distance 9.5 (8.4-9.7); prepectoral distance 23.0 (23.6-26.5); preopercular distance 47.3 (46.9-49.2); predorsal distance 49.2 (48.4-51.6); preanal distance 64.1 (62.5-67.3); pectoral fin length 18.9 (18.2-19.4); ventral fin length 18.4 (18.6-20.3); dorsal base 14.9 (12.7-15.3); anal base 8.1 (9.1-11.9).

Type-locality: Nalla near Katraj Tank, 13 km south of Poona, Maharashtra.

The type material will be deposited in due course with the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

The name *P. deccanensis* is given to this species since it was first discovered from Deccan plateau (Poona district).

DISCUSSION

The only other *Puntius* species with serrated last undivided dorsal ray and a single pair of barbels is *P. macrolepidotus* from Burma and

Malaya. However, there are more differences between the two species than resemblances. Externally, the body shape is very different, in *P. deccanensis* the body is markedly deeper than in *P. macrolepidotus*, eye bigger, snout shorter and less pointed, scales smaller in the former species when compared with the latter. Further, the two species differ significantly in the number of lateral line scales (42-44 in *P. deccanensis*, 26 in *P. macrolepidotus*), pectoral fin rays (11-13 in *P. deccanensis*, 17 in *P. macrolepidotus*) and anal fin rays (9 in *P. deccanensis*, 7 in *P. macrolepidotus*). Besides, the last undivided dorsal ray is robust and spiny in *P. deccanensis* whereas in *P. macrolepidotus* it is weak ("scarcely osseous", Day 1878).

In view of the fact that the number of barbels is not a very consistent character in this genus, if this character is ignored for a moment, *P. deccanensis* externally comes nearest to *P. ambassis*. However, the two species differ from each other in lateral line (complete in *P. deccanensis*, incomplete in *P. ambassis*), number of lateral line scales (42-44 in *P. deccanensis*, 36 in *P. ambassis*), dorsal fin rays (iii + 9 in *P. deccanensis*, iii + 8 in *P. ambassis*) and anal fin rays (ii + 7 in *P. deccanensis*, ii + 5 in *P. ambassis*).

The *Puntius* spp. occurring in India, along with their distribution and synonyms have been tabulated (Table) for ready reference. Relevant information regarding these has been obtained from works of Day (1878, 1889), Hora (1937, 1941), Misra (1961), Menon (1963, 1974), Kulkarni & Ranade (1974) etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Poona, for his kind interest and encouragement during the course of this investigation.

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

TABLE

DISTRIBUTIONAL LIST OF INDIAN SPECIES OF *Puntius*

Name of species	Important synonyms	Range of distribution
<i>A. With undivided dorsal ray serrated</i>		
1. <i>Puntius clevatus</i> (McClell.)	—	India: East Himalayan drainages.
2. <i>Puntius sarana</i> (Ham.)	<i>Barbus chrysopoma</i> Day <i>B. pinnauratus</i> Day	India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand & China.
3. <i>Puntius pleurotaenia</i> (Bleeker)	—	India: Karnataka; Sri Lanka.
4. <i>Puntius roseipinnis</i> (C.V.)	—	India: Pondicherry.
5. <i>Puntius deccanensis</i> sp. nov.	—	India: Poona (Maharashtra).
6. <i>Puntius ambassis</i> (Day)	—	India: Tamil Nadu, Orissa, W. Bengal, Assam and Maharashtra.
7. <i>Puntius conchoniis</i> (Ham.)	—	India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
8. <i>Puntius ticto</i> (Ham.)	<i>Barbus punctatus</i> Day <i>B. stoliczkanus</i> Day	India; Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
9. <i>Puntius gelius</i> (Ham.)	—	India; Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Maharashtra, U.P., Assam; Bangladesh.
10. <i>Puntius phutunio</i> (Ham.)	—	India: Orissa, West Bengal, Assam; Bangladesh and Burma.
11. <i>Puntius shalynius</i> Yazdani & Talukdar	—	India: Khasi and Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya).
12. <i>Puntius guganio</i> (Ham.)	—	India: Gangetic provinces and Assam.
<i>B. With undivided dorsal ray non-serrated</i>		
13. <i>Puntius dubius</i> (Day)	—	India: Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
14. <i>Puntius micropogon</i> (C.V.)	—	India: Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
15. <i>Puntius chilinoides</i> (McClell.)	—	India: Himalayan drainage.
16. <i>Puntius carnaticus</i> (Jerdon)	—	India: Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
17. <i>Puntius bovanicus</i> (Day)	—	India: Tamil Nadu.

Name of species	Important synonyms	Range of distribution
18. <i>Puntius sophore</i> (Ham.)	<i>Barbus chrysopterus</i> (McClell.) <i>B. stigma</i> (Val.) Day <i>B. carletoni</i> Fowler <i>B. annandalei</i> Fowler	India; Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma and Yunnan.
19. <i>Puntius curmuca</i> (Ham.)	—	India: Western ghats, Kerala.
20. <i>Puntius lithopides</i> (Day)	—	India: Karnataka and Kerala.
21. <i>Puntius thomassi</i> (Day)	—	India: Karnataka.
22. <i>Puntius spinolosus</i> (McClell.)	—	India: Sikkim.
23. <i>Puntius jerdoni</i> (Day)	<i>Barbus pulchellus</i> Day <i>Barbus dobsonii</i> Day	Peninsular India.
24. <i>Puntius wynaadensis</i> (Day)	—	India: Wynaad, Maharashtra.
25. <i>Puntius neilli</i> (Day)	—	India: Karnataka and Deccan.
26. <i>Puntius malabaricus</i> (Jerdon)	—	India: Karnataka and Western Ghats.
27. <i>Puntius melanampyx</i> (Day)	—	Peninsular India.
28. <i>Puntius chola</i> (Ham.)	<i>Systemus tetrapupagus</i> (McClell.) <i>Cyprinus titius</i> (Ham.)	India; Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma.
29. <i>Puntius parrah</i> (Day)	—	Peninsular India.
30. <i>Puntius dorsalis</i> (Jerdon)	<i>Barbus puckelli</i> Day	Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.
31. <i>Puntius kolus</i> (Sykes)	—	India: Peninsular and Central part.
32. <i>Puntius denisonii</i> (Day)	—	India: Kerala.
33. <i>Puntius melanostigma</i> (Day)	—	India: Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
34. <i>Puntius arenatus</i> (Day)	—	Peninsular India.
35. <i>Puntius amphibia</i> (Val.)	—	Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.
36. <i>Puntius arulius</i> (Jerdon)	—	Peninsular India.
37. <i>Puntius filamentosus</i> (C.V.)	<i>Barbus mahecola</i> (C.V.)	Peninsular India; Sri Lanka.
38. <i>Puntius terio</i> (Ham.)	—	India: Assam, West Bengal, Punjab, Orissa; Bangladesh.
39. <i>Puntius punjabensis</i> (Day)	—	India: Jabalpur; Pakistan, Ravi drainage at Lahore, Sind.
40. <i>Puntius waageni</i> (Day)	—	Indus drainage (India & Pakistan).
41. <i>Puntius cosuatis</i> (Ham.)	—	India: Along the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
42. <i>Puntius vittatus</i> (Day)	—	India: Gujarat, Peninsular India; Sri Lanka.
43. <i>Puntius puntio</i> (Ham.)	—	India: W. Bengal; Burma.
44. <i>Puntius sahyadriensis</i> Silas	—	India: Maharashtra.
45. <i>Puntius narayani</i> Hora	—	India: Karnataka.
46. <i>Puntius cauveriensis</i> Hora	—	India: Karnataka.

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TWO NEW SPECIES OF SPIDERS OF THE GENERA *CHEIRACANTHIUM* KOCH AND *CLUBIONA* LATREILLE (FAMILY: CLUBIONIDAE) FROM INDIA¹

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(With eight text-figures)*

The spiders of the family Clubionidae are very little known in India. I have described previously (1962) a single species of the genus *Cheiracanthium*; subsequently Patel & Patel (1973) described a second species and very recently (1975) I have described the third species of this genus from India. The spiders of the genus *Clubiona* are practically unknown in the Indian fauna. Recently Patel & Patel (1973) described a single species of the genus *Clubiona* from Gujarat.

While examining the spider collection received from Dr. G. L. Sadana, Punjab Agri-

cultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab, I came across two new species belonging one each to the genera *Cheiracanthium* and *Clubiona* which are described here.

All the type specimens will in due course be deposited in the National Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

***Cheiracanthium sadanai* sp. nov.²**

General: Cephalothorax, abdomen and legs light green. Total length 8.00 mm. Cephalothorax 3.20 mm long, 2.30 mm wide; abdomen 4.80 mm long, 2.50 mm wide.

species after Dr. G. L. Sadana, Agricultural University, Ludhiana, who collected this specimen for my study.

¹ Accepted February 1976.

² It is with much pleasure that I have named this



Yazdani, G. M. and Rao, M. Babu. 1976. "A new Species of the Genus *Puntius* Hamilton Pisces Cypriniformes Cyprinidae from Western India." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 73, 171–175.

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