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**RECORD OF THE SANDFISH, *KRAEMERIA SAMOENSIS* STEINDACHNER
[PISCES: KRAEMERIIDAE] FROM THE ORISSA COAST, INDIA**

ABSTRACT

The sandfish, *Kraemeria samoensis* Steindachner is reported here for the first time from the main coast of India, having earlier been recorded from the Minicoy atoll.

DURING a recent faunistic survey of the Orissa coast, an example of *Kraemeria samoensis* Steindachner, belonging to the family Kraemeriidae, was collected on the Konarak Beach (Orissa) in loose sand where wave action was rather severe. This species lived buried in loose sand very near to the shore, escaped rather swiftly when disturbed and hence all efforts to collect more specimens proved futile. The present communication records a member of the family Kraemeriidae for the first time from the main coast of India, having earlier been reported in India only from the Minicoy atoll in the Laccadive archipelago, Arabian Sea (Jones and Kumaran, 1968; Nagabhushanam and Chandrasekara Rao, 1972.)

***Kraemeria samoensis* Steindachner**

Kraemeria samoensis Steindachner, 1906, *Sitzb. Akad. Wiss. Wien.*, 115 (1): 41, pl. 1 (type loc: Samoa); Jones and Kumaran, 1968, *J. mar. biol. Ass. India*, 9 (1): 8, fig. 9; Nagabhushanam and Chandrasekhara Rao, 1972, *Mitt. Zool. Mus.*, 48 (2): 299 (name only).

Material: 1 ex., 13.5 mm in standard length (16 mm total length), Konarak Beach (Orissa) in loose sand, 10th June 1972, coll. P. K. Talwar; ZSI regd no. F. 6849/2.

Description

D. 19; A. 15; p. 8; V. I, 5.

Body elongate, moderately compressed, naked. Depth of body 8.5, length of head 3.4; both in standard length. Eyes small, superior in position and close together; interorbital narrow, convex. Mouth moderate, oblique, lower jaw projects considerably beyond tip of snout with an enlarged fleshy chin forming part of dorsal profile. Upper margin of maxilla, lower margin of mandible and lower operculum margin scalloped. Anterior nostril tubular, over lip, posterior nostril not discernible. Operculum elongate, covering base of pectoral fins. Gill membranes free from isthmus. Lateral line not evident and no pores observed.

Teeth minute on jaws, palatine teeth not observed but according to earlier workers there are a few on the palatines. Single dorsal fin with five flexible non-striated spiniform rays; other rays simple and striated; anal fin with one spiniform ray, others simple; origin of dorsal fin 1.2 of head length behind tip of snout; origin of anal fin below vertical from 7th dorsal fin ray, midway between tip of snout and caudal base; bases of pelvic fins united, lobate, the fins separate, first ray short, inner two rays longest.

Colour, in alcohol, yellowish white, eye black, otherwise unpigmented.

Distribution: Previously known from the Samoan and Marshall Islands in the Pacific, and the Minicoy and Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. The present record from an intermediate locality is of interest.

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