

**AMBASSIS KOPSI BLEEKER (PISCES : AMBASSIDAE),
A NEW RECORD FROM INDIAN WATERS**

DURING a study of the Orissa shore fishes, two specimens of *Ambassis kopsi* Bleeker, hitherto not recorded from Indian waters, were determined. This species has been previously reported from the Gulf of Siam, Malaya, the East Indies and the Philippines (*vide* Weber & de Beaufort, 1929 ; Smith, 1945 ; Fraser-Brunner, 1954). The present communication reports the occurrence of *Ambassis kopsi* Bleeker for the first time from Indian waters.

***Ambassis kopsi* Bleeker**

Ambassis kopsi Bleeker, 1858. *Nat. Tijdschr. Ned. Indie*, **15** : 253 (Singapore).

Ambassis kopsi Weber and de Beaufort, 1929. *Fishes Indo-Australian Archipelago*
5 : 405.

Chanda kopsii Smith, 1945. *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 188, p. 481.

Material : 2 exs, 44 and 46 mm. in standard length; Puri (Orissa); 26.6.1918; Dr. T. Southwell; Zoological Survey of India, Reg. No. F. 6157/2.

Description :

D.VII+1,10; A. III. 9; P.2, 12; LI. 26-27; Ltr. 2/8; G.R. 20, lanceolate.

Depth of body 36.3-36.9, head length 28.2-28.5, eye diameter 7.6-9.1, second dorsal spine 23.9-25.0; all in percentage of standard length. Eye diameter 30.7-32.0, inter-orbital width 26.9-28.0, snout length 23.1-24.0, post-orbital length 38.4-40.0; all in percentage of head length. Mouth oblique, lower jaw longer; maxilla extends to anterior half of eye. Supraorbital ridge smooth terminating posteriorly in a double backwardly directed spine. Preorbital denticulate on both edge and ridge. Suborbital entire. Lower limb of preopercle serrated. Lateral line continuous with a curve below dorsal. Teeth villiform in several rows in both jaws; tongue edentate. Scales—Two rows of scales on suborbital. Dorsal separated by nine scales from occiput. Fins—Second and third anal spines equal. Caudal forked. Colour in alcohol—Brownish with a fairly distinct silvery lateral band along sides. Tip of spinous dorsal dusky.

Remarks : These two specimens agree well with the earlier descriptions (Jordan and Seale, 1907; Weber and de Beaufort, 1929) of this species. *Ambassis kopsi* Bleeker is closely allied to *Ambassis urotaenia* Bleeker, a species fairly common along the coast of India and the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands and may be easily distinguished from *A. urotaenia* in the absence of teeth (*versus* presence) on the tongue and two rows (*versus* single row) of scales on cheek.

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