

An Osteoglossid Fish in the Malay Peninsula

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The Family *Osteoglossidae*, ranking amongst the oldest of the Teleostean groups, is represented in Asia by the genus *Scleropages*. *S. leichardti* Günth., occurs in Queensland and is recorded doubtfully from New Guinea; *S. formosus* (Mull. and Schl.) was for long known only from Sumatra, Banka and Borneo, but an example was taken in the Malay Peninsula in 1922, and a second in 1925.

The following extract is taken from the Annual Report of the F. M. S. Museums for 1922 by Mr. H. C. Robinson (F. M. S. *Government Gazette* of 1923):—

"An interesting addition to the fauna of the Malay Peninsula was obtained by Messrs. Evans and Henderson in the Krian Irrigation Reservoir at Bukit Merah. It is a fish of the very primitive family *Osteoglossidae*, which is known from the tropics of both Hemispheres and from Australia, and from Borneo and Sumatra. The family includes amongst its members the largest existing fresh water fish. Our species is closely allied to, if not identical with, the Sumatran *Scleropages formosus* but is not so brightly coloured. Besides its Krian habitat it is also known to the Malays of the Tembeling under the name *baju rantai*,¹ possibly in allusion to its extremely hard and dense scales".

I have considered it advisable to repeat it here as the report in question is liable to escape notice. The reference to a difference in colour may be disregarded, and I have no doubt of the identification.

The second specimen was also taken from the Bukit Merah Reservoir, by the Fisheries Dept., in 1925, and was mounted and presented to the Raffles Museum. As I had access to both specimens, which owing to their mounted condition could not be sent to Dr. L. F. de Beaufort who is working on the study collection of the Museum, I put on record particulars of the specimens.

Collected by	Lateral line ²	Length without caudal	Total length
A. Evans and Henderson	23	500 mm.	580 mm.
B. Fisheries Dept. ...	23	440 "	500 "

¹. Chain-coat or coat-of-mail.

². From upper corner of opercle, not including the large scale above the opercle.

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It is noteworthy that both specimens are longer than the maximum given by Weber and de Beaufort¹, which is 430 mm., and these do not appear to be fully-grown fishes. I have omitted fin-counts as the mounting process made it impossible to take them with accuracy.

The fish is known to the Perak Malays as *kělěsa*.²
