

Some comments on the type specimens of Malayan fishes described by Georg Duncker.

— In his account of the fishes of the Malay Peninsula, Ducker (1904, *Mitt. Naturh. Mus. Hamburg*, 21: 133–207, 1 fig., 2 pls.) described 14 species and 1 subspecies as new. The type specimens were distributed between the Zoologisches Museum in Hamburg and the Selangor State Museum in Kuala Lumpur. The specimens in the Selangor Museum were believed to be entirely lost when the Museum was destroyed in 1945. However, while examining the Register of the fish collections in the British Museum in 1959, I noticed an entry dated 6th May, 1905 incorporating a small collection donated by Mr. H. C. Robinson who was then a curator in the Selangor Museum. Examination of these specimens revealed that they included a part of the type series.

In the course of preparing the third volume of their *Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago*, Weber and de Beaufort (1916, p. vi) examined the Cyprinoid fishes in the Hamburg Museum, which included the Malayan material reported by Duncker. Some of these, including a few duplicates of Duncker's types, were retained in the Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam.

Recently, Ladiges, von Wahlart and Mohr (1958, *Mitt. Hamburg Zool. Inst.*, 56: 155–167) listed the types of 12 of the species, designating lectotypes and paratypes. The following notes supplement their list. The opportunity is also taken to correct the misspellings and clarify the abbreviations of the type localities given by them and by Duncker.

Ospromenus malayanus Duncker: 163, pl. 1, fig. 3. Ladiges et al: 166. Paratypes:—(2) BM. 1905.5.6.19–20, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor. Weber and de Beaufort (1920, *op. cit.*, 4: 349) have already rediagnosed the species as *Sphaerichthys ospromenoides* Canestrini.

Nemachilus selangoricus Duncker: 175. Ladiges et al: 159. Paratype:—(1) BM. 1905.5.6.16, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor. It is not understood why Weber and de Beaufort (1916) make no mention of this species. It is also confusing that Ladiges et al. have listed the lectotype as *Botia selangorica*. The specimen I have examined is a species of *Nemachilus* Bleeker.

Barbus tetrazona var. *johorensis* Duncker: 178, pl. 1, fig. 3. Ladiges et al: 158. Paratype:—(1) BM. 1905.5.6.6, Muar River, Tebing Tinggi, Johore. I have rediagnosed the specimen as *Puntius pentazona johorensis* Duncker.

Barbus halei Duncker: 178, pl. 2, fig. 15. Holotype:— BM. 1905.5.6.7, Pahang River, Kuala Tembeling, Pahang. This is another species omitted in Weber and de Beaufort (1916).

Barbus soroides Duncker: 178, pl. 1, fig. 7. Ladiges et al: 158. Paratypes:—(3) BM. 1905.5.6.8–10, Eastern slope of Sangka Dua Pass, in the source zone of the Pahang rivers (about 2,000 feet above the sea), Pahang. Weber and de Beaufort (1916: 168) have rediagnosed the species as *Acrossocheilus dukai* (Day).

Barbus pahangensis Duncker: 179, pl. 1, fig. 4. Ladiges et al: 158. Paratypes:— (2) ZMA. 103213, (3) BM. 1905.5.6.11–13, Pahang River above Kuala Kitchal (88–120 km. above the river mouth). The specimens are juveniles of *Probarbus jullieni* Sauvage. Mr. J. J. Hoedeman allowed me to confirm the identification by dissecting one of the specimens for an examination of the pharyngeal teeth.

The locality "Kuala Kitchal" is not indicated in Duncker's map (p. 145) and I am not able to find it on other maps I have consulted. The stretch of the Pahang River 88 to 120 km. from its mouth is approximately between Kampong Chini and Kampong Kuala Jempol.

Barbus lineatus Duncker: 180, pl. 2, fig. 14. Ladiges et al: 158. Paratypes:—(1) ZMA. 103220, (2) BM. 1905.5.6.14–15, Muar River, Tebing Tinggi, Johore. This species also is omitted in Weber and de Beaufort (1916).

Rasbora vulgaris Duncker: 181. Ladiges et al: 159. Paratypes:—(2) BM. 1905.5.6.4–5, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor. The species is correctly synonymised with *R. sumatrana* (Bleeker) by Weber and de Beaufort (1916: 77).

Rasbora maculata Duncker: 182, pl. 1, fig. 6. Ladiges et al: 159. Paratypes:—(5) ZMA. 103216, Bukit Terah, Bandar Maharani (=Muar), Johore. This is a valid species and Weber and de Beaufort have erroneously synonymised it with *R. kalochroma* (Bleeker).

Rasbora heteromorpha Duncker: 182, pl. 1, fig. 5. Ladiges et al: 159. Paratypes:—(3) ZMA. 103218, 2–3 milestone, Semenyih-Beranang Road, Selangor. In the original description, part of the type series was doubtfully assigned to Negri Sembilan. The remaining types were from Kuala Lumpur and the pond in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore. From the details on the labels of the specimens I have examined, I now find that the doubtful Negri Sembilan locality should be corrected to Selangor. The 2–3 milestone on the Semenyih-Beranang Road is approximately on the Sungei (= River) Rinching.

Brittan (1954, *Monogr. Inst. Sci. Tech. Manila*, 3: 187) restricted the type locality to Kuala Lumpur. He did not examine any types. Ladiges et al. however, selected as the lectotype a specimen from "Semunga-Benung" (= Semenyih-Beranang). To clear up this confusion I sought the advice of Dr. L. B. Holthuis of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden. His views on the prevalence of lectotype selection over type locality restriction were later confirmed by the secretariat of the International Commission who informed him (in litt.) that "it must be accepted that at present a designation of type-locality has no official status, as it is not regulated in the Code, and that therefore it may be overruled by a later lectotype designation."

Rasbora dorsiocellata Duncker: 182, pl. 1, fig. 2. Ladiges et al: 159. Paratypes:—(3) ZMA. 103217, Muar River, Tebing Tinggi, Johore. The locality "Malacca" given by Weber and de Beaufort (1916: 68) should be corrected to "Malaya".

Pseudolaubuca (?) *clupeoides* Duncker: 183, pl. 1, figs. 1 & 1a. The Holotype and only specimen was deposited in the Selangor Museum and is now believed to be lost. It was not found among the specimens in the British Museum.

Dorichthys fluviatilis Duncker: 188, pl. 2, figs. 10 & 10a. Syntypes:—(2) BM. 1905.5.6. 17–18, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor. I agree with Duncker (1915, *Mitt. Naturh. Mus. Hamburg*, 32: 53) that this is *D. deokhatoides* (Bleeker).

My thanks are due to Mr. J. J. Hoedeman formerly of the Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam and Messrs A. Wheeler and G. Palmer of the British Museum (Natural History), London for helping me to gain access to the specimens. ———— ERIC R. ALFRED, *Singapore National Museum*, 23rd January, 1963.