

## NOTES ON THE GENUS *ERYTHROCULTER*

BERG (*PISCES, CYPRINIDAE*), WITH DESCRIPTION  
OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

BY  
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In spite of the fact that *Chanodichthys* Bleeker, 1859, has the priority over *Erythroculter* Berg, 1909, the author considers that the last name, which is generally used, must be retained as nomen conservandum. He recognizes 5 species within *Erythroculter*; *Culter recurvirostris* Sauvage is a subspecies of *E. illishaeformis*, *E. pseudobrevicauda* is a synonym of *E. il. recurvirostris* and *E. oxycephalus* a synonym of *E. dabryi*. A new subspecies is described: *E. hypselonotus daovantieni*. Eight type-specimens are figured.

The generic name *Erythroculter* was proposed by L. S. Berg in 1909 for East Asian fishes formerly included in the genus *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855, but differing from *C. alburnus* in having a ventral keel only behind pelvics. Y. T. Chu [5] considers *Chanodichthys* Bleeker, 1859, the right name for the species commonly ascribed to *Erythroculter*, which becomes thus a synonym of the first-named genus. But the status of *Chanodichthys* is rather obscure. In describing this genus, Bleeker clearly indicates as type *Leptocephalus mongolicus* Basilewsky and gives later [4] a correct description and figure of the species identified by him as *L. mongolicus*; this is undoubtedly the species commonly named *Erythr. mongolicus* (Basilewsky). The specific name *mongolicus* was applied to this species firstly by L. S. Berg [1] who identified it not with *L. mongolicus* Basil., but with *Culter mong.* Basil. In the successive editions of "Ryby presnych vod", Berg identified *Lept. mongolicus* with a rather doubtful species, known after a single specimen (ZIAN 5572) which resembles more or less *Erythr. mongolicus*, but has bipartite airbladder, 81 scales in lateral line and no ventral keel. This specimen may be a hybrid.

In discussing the status of *Chanodichthys*, Chu [5] pointed out that Basilewsky mentioned, in the description of his *Lept. mongolicus* "vesica aerea longa, triloba"; this is an argument, that this species is an *Erythroculter*. The fact that the species, identified by Bleeker as *Lep-tocephalus mongolicus* when he proposed it as genotype of *Chanodich-*

*thys* is the same as *Erythroculter mongolicus* of later authors, clearly designates it as type of *Chanodichthys*, may it be or not identical with Basilewsky's *Leptocephalus mongolicus*. Chu is therefore right in synonymizing *Erythroculter* with *Chanodichthys*. But because in the last 31 years no author used the name *Chanodichthys* in the same acceptance as Chu and all continued to use *Erythroculter*, it is preferable to retain the last-named as nomen conservandum and to reject *Chanodichthys* as nomen oblitum. A request will be made in this respect to the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature.

Comprehensive studies on Chinese *Erythroculter* were published by J. T. Nichols [8], B. Yih & Tz. Chu [12] and H. W. Wu [11]. The first-named author recognizes 8 Chinese species. Yih & Chu synonymize one of it (*aokii*), and describe two new subspecies, whilst the last author puts one species (*wangi*) in an other new genus, *Ancherythroculter*, and recognizes a further species, *hypselonotus* (Bleeker) which was overlooked by his predecessors.

The examination of about 100 specimens, including 8 types, brought us to some nomenclatorial and taxonomical conclusions more or less different from those of the authors mentioned above. The specimens examined belong to the collections of following institutions: American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH), Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (ANSP), British Museum, Natural History (BMNH), Zoologisches Staatsinstitut und Museum in Hamburg (HZSml), Chicago Natural History Museum (CNHM), Institutul de Biologie "Tr. Săvulescu", Bucharest (IBTS), Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien (NMW), Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm (NRMS), University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology (UMMZ), Zoologitcheskij Institut Akademii Nauk, Leningrad (ZIAN), Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt Universität, Berlin (ZMB), Zoologitcheskij Muzei Moskovskogo Universiteta (ZMMU).

#### SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

##### 1. *Erythroculter ilishaeformis ilishaeformis* (Bleeker, 1871)

— Pl. I, fig. 1, 2 —

Synonyms: (?) *Culter erythropterus* Basilewski, 1855 (North China); *C. ilishaeformis* Bleeker, 1871 (Yangtze); *C. sieboldi* Dybowski, 1872 (Amur drainage); *C. erythropterus* Berg, 1909 (Amur dr.); *C. aokii* Oshima, 1919 (Taiwan); *Erythr. erythropterus* auct.

#### Specimens examined:

##### From Yangtze drainage:

- Type of *C. ilishaeformis*. MNHN 5055, Yangtze, 306. 5 mm st. length (Pl. I, fig. 1).
- NMW 52782. Tungting lake, 1 spec., 190 mm.
- ZMB 16682, Tungting lake, 233.5 mm (determ. *C. alburnus*).
- ZMB 16683, Hankow, 314 mm (determ. *C. alburnus*).
- HZSml 12538, Shanghai, 124.5 mm (determ. *C. recurvirostris*).

- BMNH 1888, 3, 23, 39—41, Kiu-kiang, 3 spec., 239—308 mm (determined *C. ilishaeformis*).
- MNHN 34.147—154, Szechwan, 8 spec., 126.5—246.0 mm.
- CNHM 43614, Szechwan, 265.0 mm.
- Liang-tze-hu lake, Hupeh, 2 spec., 109—159 mm, received from Dr. Hs. W. Wu.
- MNHN 3964, China (probably Yangtze), 207 mm.

**From Chekiang :**

- ZMB 11308, Ningpo, 470 mm (determ. *C. ilishaeformis*).
- ZMB 21619, Ningpo, 238 mm (determ. *C. ilishaeformis*).

**From Fukien (Minkiang drainage) :**

- HZSmI 11139, Fuchow, 2 spec., 197 & 232.5 mm (det. *C. recurvirostris*).
- HZSmI 10381, Fukien, 173 mm (determ. *C. recurvirostris*).
- AMNH 10852, Yenping, Fukien, 167 mm (determ. *Erythr. aokii*).
- AMNH 10885, Fukien, 81.5 mm (determ. *Erythr. aokii*).

**From Taiwan (Formosa) :**

- NMW 52792, lake Candidus, 124 mm (determ. *C. ilishaeformis*).

**From Amur drainage :**

- Type of *C. sieboldi* Dybowski, ZMB 7932, Chanka lake, 232 mm. (Pl. I, fig. 2).
- IBTS 922 (formerly ZMMU), Chanka lake, 97.5 mm.

This is the best-known representative of the genus, which ranges from the Amur drainage and Korea to Min-kiang. Most authors name it *E. erythropterus* but, as shown by Yih & Chu [12], Basilewsky's *C. erythropterus* (whose type-specimens exists no more) seems to be not this species, but *Culter alburnus*. The right name is therefore *ilishaeformis*.

J. T. Nichols [8] considers the Taiwan and Fukien representatives of this species as belonging to a distinct species, *Er. aokii*; they are however, practically identical with the Yangtze specimens. The scales number is the same: 81—96 ( $M = 89.2$ ) in Amur specimens (according to G. V. Nikolski, 9), 85—90 in Korea (according to Uchida, 10), 82—95 in the Yangtze and Chekiang specimens available to us, 80—88 in Fukien and Taiwan specimens. The only difference in body proportions concerns the predorsal distance, which is 48.5—51.0% of standard length in Yangtze, 46.8—49.9% in Fukien specimens. This difference is too slight to deserve specific or even subspecific rank. I agree therefore with Yih & Chu and with Wu in synonymizing *aokii* with *ilishaeformis*.

According to Yih & Chu, the specimens from Sungari differ from those of the remaining parts of Amur drainage and from the Yangtze and represent a distinct subspecies: *Er. il. sungarinensis*.

**Ia. *Erythroculter ilishaeformis recurvirostris* (Sauvage, 1884)**

— Pl. I, fig. 3 —

Synonyms: (?) *Culter recurvirostris* Richardson, 1876 (Canton); *C. recurvirostris* Sauvage, 1884 (Tonkin); *Erythr. pseudobrevicauda* Nichols & Pope, 1927 (Nodoa, Hainan); Nichols, 1943 (Hainan, Kwantung); (?) Dao & Yen, 1959 (Boi R., North Vietnam; partim); *Culter recurvirostris*, Lin, 1934 (Kwantung; Kwangsi; Kweichow).

Specimens examined:

From North Vietnam:

- Type of *C. recurvirostris*, MNHN 84-78, 251 mm (Pl. I, fig. 3).
- MNHN 07294, Hanoi, 207 mm (determined *C. recurviceps*).
- MNHN 92265, Song-bo (Black River), 265 mm (determ. *C. recurviceps*).

From Hsikiang drainage (South-East China):

- BMNH 1933.3.11.844, Canton, Kwantung, 2 spec., 118 & 135 mm. (determ. *C. recurviceps*).
- AMNH 15614, Canton, 5 spec., 75.5-103 mm (det. *C. aokii*).
- AMNH 15623, Canton, 4 spec., 61-133 mm (det. *C. aokii*).
- UMMZ 100646, Santon (Canton?), 3 spec., 79.2-126 mm (det. *C. recurviceps*).

Most authors, including Yih & Chu and Wu, consider *Er. pseudobrevicauda* from Hainan and Kwantung as distinct species. The comparison of Kwantung specimens, determined by Nichols as *pseudobrevicauda*, with the type of *C. recurvirostris* proved their identity. The name *recurvirostris* must thus replace *pseudobrevicauda*. *Leuciscus recurviceps* Richardson, 1846, from Canton, may be the same, but, as shown by L. S. Berg [2], this species is unidentifiable and the type was lost; the name *recurviceps* cannot therefore be retained. The Kwantung, Kwangsi and Kweichow specimens recorded by S. Y. Lin as *recurviceps* are probably *recurvirostris*, although Lin gives only 66-68 scales whilst I found 68-74 in Kwantung specimens and Nichols gives about 75 in *pseudobrevicauda*.

But *recurvirostris* (= *pseudobrevicauda*) is not an independent species, agreeing with *ilishaefornis* in most important characters, especially its vertical mouth. It differs from *il. ilishaefornis* in its smaller number of scales (a slight decrease of scales number is noticeable also in the southern populations of *ilishaefornis*), more anal rays (23-26 as against 20-24 in *ilishaefornis*), and some body proportions (depth 22.8-27.0 % of st. length as against 20.6-24.2 % in *ilishaefornis*; preanal distance 59.5-64.5 % as against 63.0-69.0 %; prepelvic distance 39.8-43.0 % as against 42.7-49.8%).

## 2. Erythroculter dabryi (Bleeker, 1871).

— Pl. I, fig. 4, Pl. II, figs. 5-7 —

Synonyms: *Culter dabryi* Bleeker, 1871 (Yangtze); *C. oxycephalus* Bleeker, 1871 (Yangtze); *C. abramoides* Dybowski, 1872 (Chanka lake, Amur drainage); Kreyenberg & Pappenheim, 1908 (Tungting lake); *C. hypselonotus* (non Bleeker), Günther, 1888 (Kiu-kiang); *Erythroculter dabryi* + *Er. oxycephalus*, auct.

Specimens examined:

- Type spec. of *C. dabryi*, MNHN 5078, Yangtze, 224 mm (Pl. I, fig. 4).
- Type spec. of *C. oxycephalus*, MNHN 5050, Yangtze, 229 mm. (Pl. II, fig. 5).
- Type spec. of *C. abramoides*, ZMB 7933, Chanka lake, 258.5 mm, (Pl. II, fig. 6).
- MNHN 34151, Szechwan, 146 mm (determ. *C. erythropterus*).

- ANSP 86784, Ningkwo, Anhwei, 182 mm (det. *C. erythropterus*).
- ZMB 16685, Hankow, 252.5 mm (det. *C. abramoides*) (Pl. II, fig. 7).
- NMW 52799, Shanghai, 163 mm (determ. Culler sp.).
- MNHN 3959-60, Wuchang, 201 & 178.5 mm (det. *Chanod. dabryi*).
- BMNH 1888. 3.23.42-43, Kiu-kiang, 2 spec., 223 & 217 mm (det. *C. hypselonotus*).

Nearly all authors, including most recent ones (Yih & Chu, Wu) consider *dabryi* and *oxycephalus* distinct species; the last author gives the following differences: depth: 23.2-30.3% of st. length in *dabryi*, 27.0-30.3% in *oxycephalus*; head 23.3-26.4% and 22.2-24.4%; snout 25.6-27.0% of head and 25.0-25.6%; scales 64-71 and 65-69; gill rakers 20-22 in *dabryi* and 22-23 in *oxycephalus*. One remarks that most of these values overlap.

The comparison of the type specimens of *dabryi* and *oxycephalus*, as well as that of the other specimens mentioned above, convinced me that they are conspecific. The number of scales, anal rays, etc. and body proportions of all 11 specimens examined is given in table I. One remarks some differences: the types of *oxycephalus* and *abramoides* have a deeper body, the type of *oxycephalus* somewhat bigger preanal, prepelvic and pectoral-pelvic distances, but these are only individual variations. The mouth shape, number of scales, anal rays and gill-rakers do not justify the separation of *oxycephalus* in a distinct species.

Having no specimens, I cannot discuss on the validity of the subspecies *E. dabryi shinkainensis* Yih & Chu.

### 3. *Erythroculter hypselonotus*, *hypselonotus* (Bleeker, 1870)

— Pl. II. fig 8; text fig.1 —

Synonyms: *Culler hyps.* Bleeker, 1870 (China); Bleeker, 1871 (Yangtze); Lin, 1934 (Wuchow, Kwangsi); *Erythr. hypselonotus*, Wu, 1964.

#### Specimens examined:

- BMNH 1935.4.18.25, Poseh, Kwangsi, 143 mm., coll. Lin.
- ANSP 101379, Poseh, Kwangsi, 197 mm, coll. Lin.

D III 7; A 3/ 23-26; L. lat.  $63 \frac{12}{15}$  66; Sp. br. 19-20 (15+5 and 16+3); D. phar-

5.4.2-2.3.4 and 5.4.2.-2.4.4.

In percentage of standard length: depth 24.5 in the smaller, 27.2 in the bigger specimen; caudal peduncle 16.1 and 15.8; least depth 8.95 and 9.25; predorsal distance 48.2 and 49.3; preanal 61.5 and 62.0; prepelvic 42.5 and 42; from pectoral to pelvic origin 21.0; from pelvic to anal 21 and 20.8; pectoral 19.7; pelvic 16.4 and 15.7; head 25.3 and 24.8; snout 6.85 and 7.35; eye 8.25 and 7.35; eye 32.6 and 29.6% of head, 118 and 104% of interorbital width, 121 and 100 of snout length. Mouth as oblique as in *E. dabryi*.

*Er. hypselonotus* is the least-known species within the genus. Many authors do not consider it valid; Nichols [8] mentions it in the synonymy of *dabryi* with a (?); Yih and Chu (12) don't mention it at all. S. Y. Lin

Table I

**Meristic characters and body proportions in *Erythrocuttera abryi* (Bleeker)**

[7] describes two specimens, 162 and 113 mm st. length, collected by him at Wuchow, which he identifies with Bleeker's species. Two specimens, collected by him later at Poseh were presented to the British

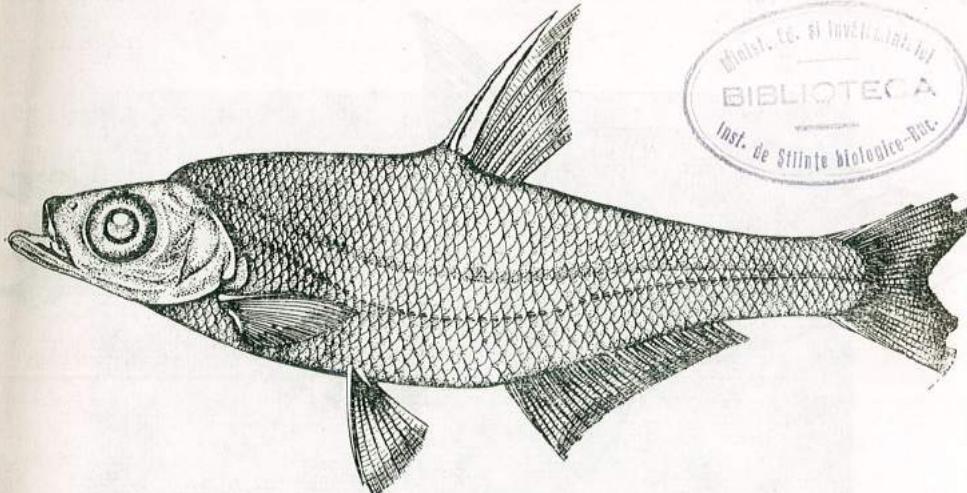


Fig. 1. — *Erythrocutter hypselonotus hypselonotus* (Bleeker). Poseh, Kwangsi BMNH 1935.4.18.25.

Museum and the Academy of Philadelphia and I had the opportunity to study them; they seem to be the only specimens existing in European and North American museums. The type specimen exists no more in Paris.

Wu [11] finds some differences in body proportions between the original description of this species by Bleeker and that of Kwangsi specimens by Lin, considers Lin's specimens not conspecific with Bleeker's and ascribes the specific name *hypselonotus* to Lin. Nomenclatorically, this is not right. Besides this, the comparison of the two specimens available (determined by Lin himself) with Bleeker's and Wu's figure and descriptions convinced me that all represent the same species. The slight differences between them are due to normal individual variability.

This species is closer to *dabryi*, differing from it especially in its much bigger eye and shorter snout; it is the only species within the genus in which the snout is shorter than or equal to the eye diameter.

### 3a. *Erythrocutter hypselonotus daovantieni* nova subsp.

— Pl. III, fig. 9 and Text — fig. 2 —

Synonym: *Erythrocutter pseudobrevicauda* (non Nichols & Pope), Dao & Yen, 1959 (Boi River, North Vietnam; partim).

Holotype: IBTS 625, Boi River, 115 mm st. length, received from Prof. Dao-van-Tien, determined as *Erythrocutter pseudobrevicauda*.

*Diagnosis.* An *Erythrocutter* closer to *E. hypselonotus*, but with about 31 divided anal rays and 24 gill rakers.

Description D III 7; A 2/ 31; L. lat. 60—63, Sp. br. 24 (19 + 5), D. phar. 4.3.2—2.3.5.

Depth of body 26.1 % of standard length; caudal peduncle length 15.7 %, least depth 8.0 %, predorsal distance 50.5 %, preanal 59.1 %, prepelvic 39.1 %, distance from pectoral to pelvic origin 17.2 %, from

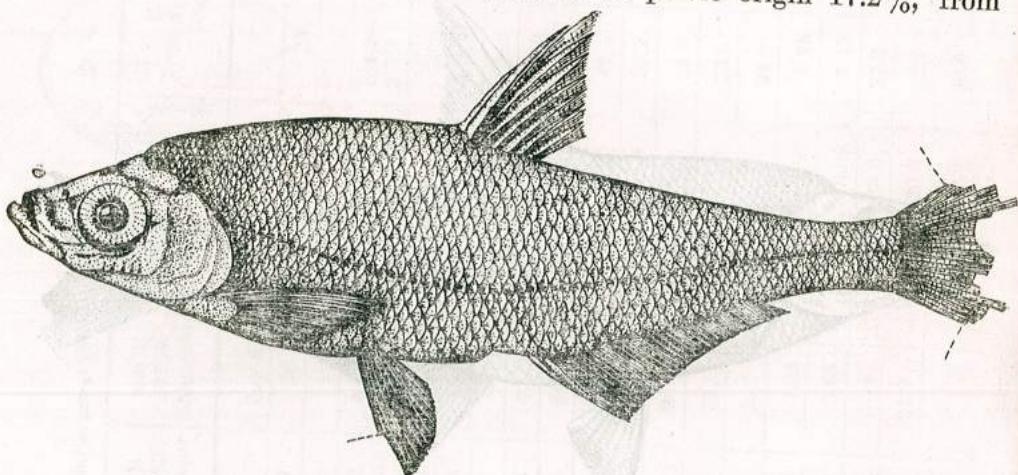


Fig. 2. — *Erythroculter hypselonotus daovantieni* nova subsp. Type.

pelvic to anal 19.4 %, length of pectoral 19.3 %, of pelvic 15.2 %, height of dorsal spine 19.6 %, of first divided dorsal ray 21.8 %, base of dorsal 10 %, height of anal 12.2 %, its base 29.0 %, head length 25.0 %, snout 6.95 %, eye diameter 7.85 %; snout 27.8 % of head; eye diameter 31.2 % of head, 145 % of interorbital distance, 113 % of snout; body width 33.3 % of depth.

Mouth strongly oblique, as in *E. h. hypselonotus* and in *E. dabryi* not vertical as in *ilishaeformis*. Cleft of mouth reaching in front of vertical from nostril, insertion of mandible under one forth of eye. Back elevated at nape. Pectorals passing beyond pelvic origin; pelvies not reaching to anal origin. Tip of depressed dorsal reaching above middle of anal base.

This fish was determined by Dao & Yen as *Er. pseudobrevicauda* (= *Er. ilish. recurvirostris*), but differs from it in the shape of mouth, much bigger eye, much more anal rays, fewer scales. It is undoubtedly closer related to *Er. hypselonotus* than to any other species.

#### 4. *Erythroculter mongolicus* (Basilewsky, 1855)

— Pl. III, fig. 10, 11 —

Synonyms: *Cutter mongolicus* Basil., 1855 (North China); *R. rutilus* Dybowsky, 1872 (Amur drainage).

Specimens examined:

- Type of *C. rutilus*, ZMB 7934, Chanka lake, 224.5 mm (Pl. III, fig. 10).
- IBTS 1005 (formerly ZIAN 32432), Chanka lake, 117 mm.
- ZMB 16684, Tungting lake, 135 mm (Pl. III, fig. 11).

## PLATE I

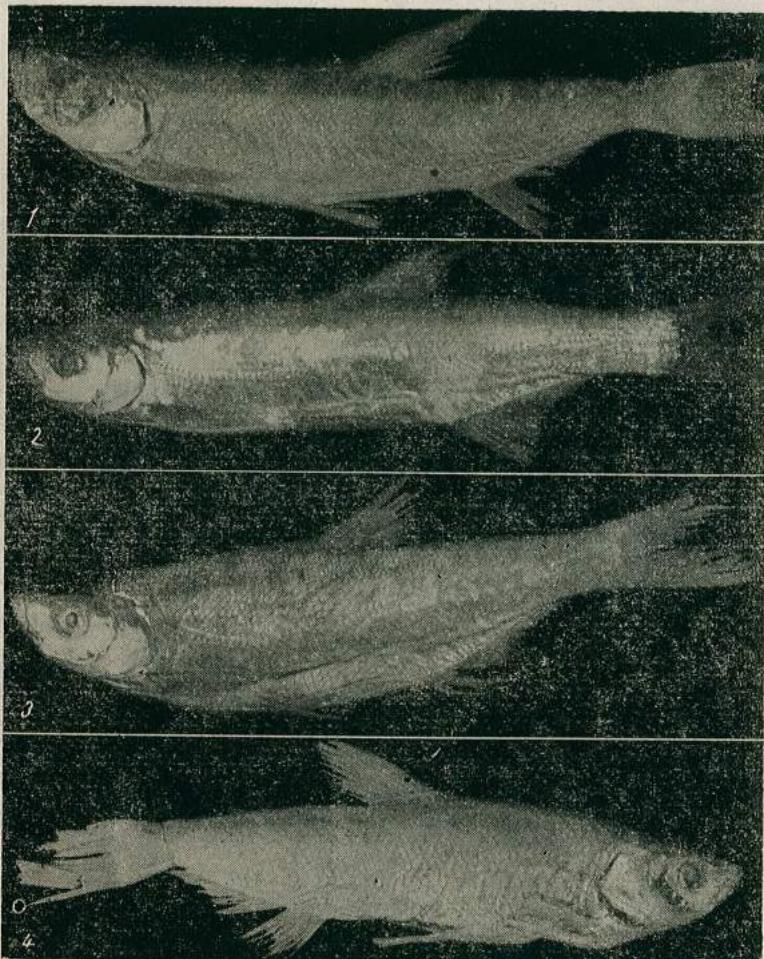


Fig. 1. — *Erythroculter ilishaefornis* (Bleeker). Type specimen. MNHN 5055, Yangtze.

Fig. 2. — *Erythroculter ilishaefornis* (Bleeker). Type specimen of *Culter siebold* Dybowski. ZMB 7932, Chanka lake.

Fig. 3. — *Erythroculter ilishaefornis recurvirostris* (Sauvage). Type specimen. MNHN 8478. North Vietnam (Tonkin).

Fig. 4. — *Erythroculter dabryi* (Bleeker). Type specimen. MNHN 5078. Yangtze.

*PLATE II*

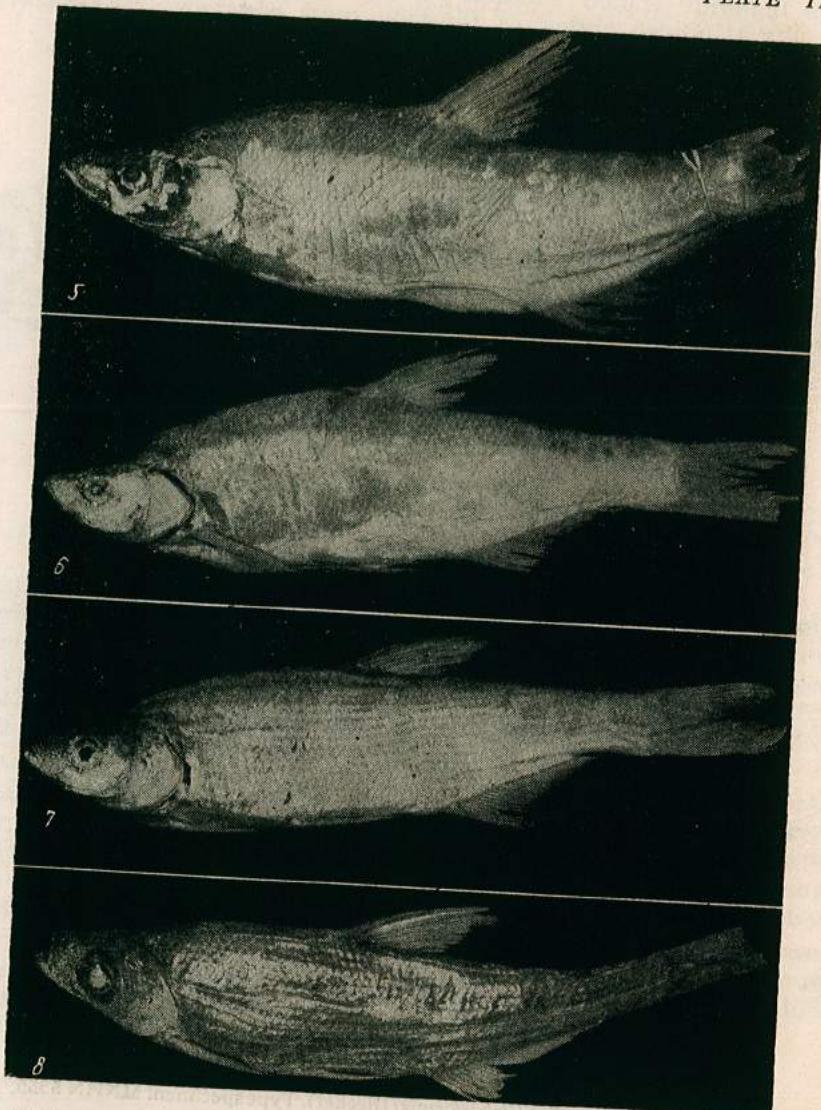


Fig. 5. — *Erythroculter dabryi* (Bleeker). Type specimen of *Culter oxycephalus* Bleeker. MNHN 5050. Yangtze.  
 Fig. 6. — *Erythroculter dabryi* (Bleeker). Type specimen of *Culter abramoides* Dybowski. ZMB 7933. Chanka lake.  
 Fig. 7. — *Erythroculter dabryi* (Bleeker). ZMB 16685. Hankow.  
 Fig. 8. — *Erythroculter hypselonotus hypselonotus* (Bleeker). BMNH 1935. 4.18.25. Poseh, Kwangsi.

PLATE III

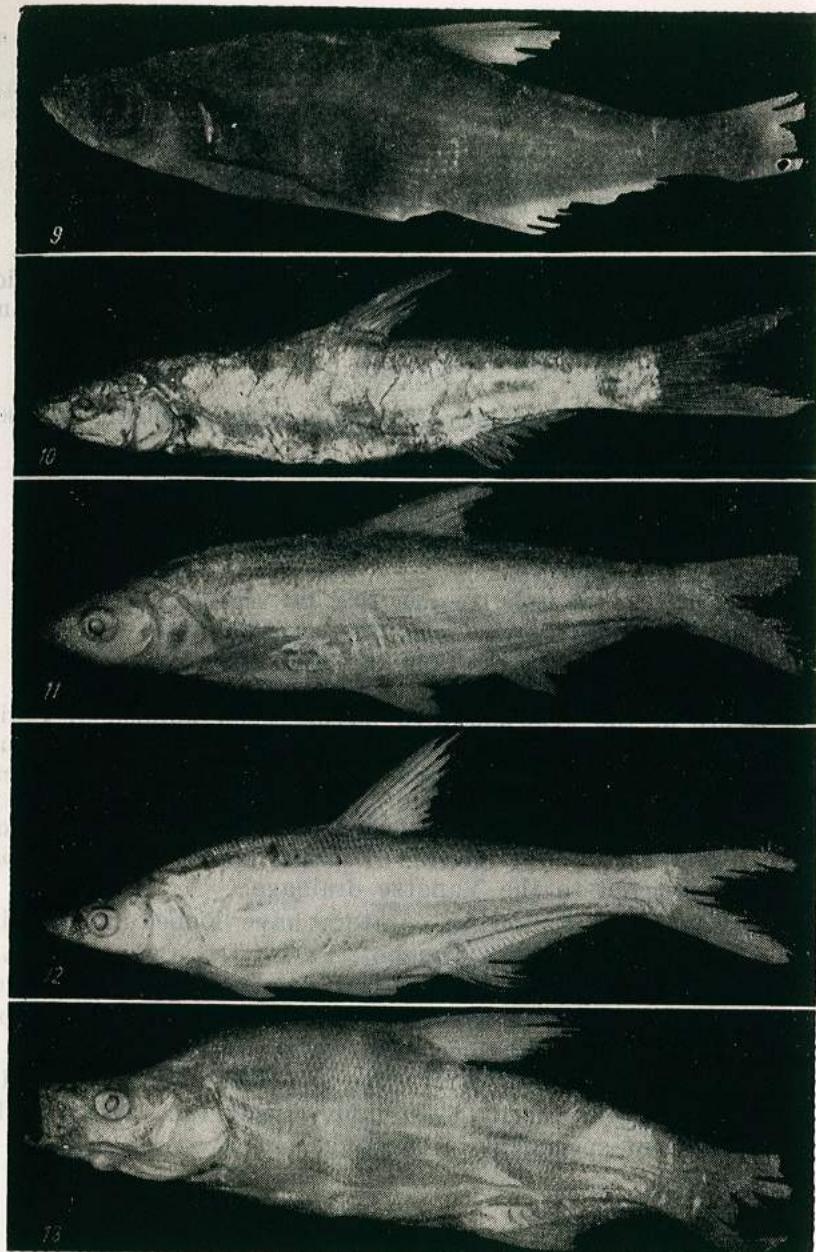


Fig. 9. — *Erythroculter hypselonotus daovantieni* nova subsp. IBTS 625. Boi River, North Vietnam.

Fig. 10. — *Erythroculter mongolicus* (Basilewsky). Type specimen of *Cutter retilus* Dybowsky. ZMB 7934. Chanka lake.

Fig. 11. — *Erythroculter mongolicus* (Basilewsky). ZMB 16684. Tungting lake.

Fig. 12. — *Erythroculter oxycephaloides* (Kreyenbeg & Pappenheim). Type specimen. ZMB. 16689. Tungting lake.

Fig. 13. — *Erythroculter oxycephaloides* (Kreyenbeg & Pappenheim). NRMS 10153. Kia-ling-ho, Szechwan.

- NMW 10873, Shanghai, 167 mm (determ. *Culter latifrons* Steindachner, a nomen nudum, unpublished).
- BMNH 1928.4.24.10, Tai-hu lake, Kiangsu, 164 mm (det. *Chanodichthys mongolicus*).
- BMNH 1888.3.23.34, Kiu-kiang, 300 mm (det. *Chanod. mong.*).
- MNHN 3958, Wuchang, 246 mm (det. *Chanod. mong.*).
- MNHN 5049, China, 357 mm (det. *Chanod. mong.*).
- MNHN 5063, China, 140.5 mm (det. *Chanod. mong.*).

Our specimens agree with the description of this species by Nichols [8], Nikolski [9], etc. There are no differences between Amur and Yangtze specimens.

### 5. *Erythroculter oxycephaloides* (Kreyemberg & Pappenheim, 1908)

— Pl. III, figs. 12, 13 —

Synonym : *Culter oxycephaloides*, Krey. & Papp., 1908 (Tunting lake).  
Specimens examined:

- Type specimen, ZMB 16686, Tunting lake, 164 mm (Fig. 12).
- AMNH 10871, Tunting lake, 2 spec., 106.8. and 85.0 mm.
- NRMS 10153, Kia-ling-ho, Szechwan, 266.0 mm (Fig. 13).

No figure of the type-specimen having been published, I give a photograph of it and of the big Szechwan specimen. In the last-named the body and caudal peduncle are much deeper (depth 28.2% of st. length, least depth 11.3% as against 23.6—26.9% and 8.8—9.7% in the other three specimens). This species is characterized by its long and narrow snout, small and almost horizontal mouth. It seems closer to *E. mongolicus*. Its range is restricted to the Yangtze drainage.

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