

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW GUINEA FISHES.

By

GILBERT P. WHITLEY,

Ichthyologist, The Australian Museum.

(Figure 1.)

THE Australian Museum recently received from Flight-Lieutenant Stuart Campbell, R.A.F., of Port Moresby, Papua, a fine series of freshwater fishes collected by him from the upper Fly River, Papua, about thirty miles above d'Albertis Junction. When identifying this collection from such a little known region, I examined a few other species from remote parts of New Guinea, and now put these on record in view of the interest which is nowadays being taken in the fauna of that country. The freshwater fishes of the Fly River are allied to those of other rivers along the southern coastline of New Guinea and also to the fluviatile species of the Aru Islands, Port Essington, and the Northern Territory generally, and the rivers of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The northern New Guinea freshwater fauna is quite distinct from the southern. In this paper, fishes from both areas are discussed, also an interesting eel from the interior.

Family PLOTOSIDAE.

Genus *Neosilurus* Steindachner, 1867.

Neosilurus brevidorsalis (Günther).

Copidoglanis brevidorsalis Günther, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (3), xx, 1867, p. 66. Cape York, Queensland, and Nicol Bay, W.A. *Id.*, Weber and Beaufort, Fish Indo-Austr. Archip., ii, 1913, p. 241.

Several specimens of a catfish were secured. The largest of the present series has only one ventral fin (the left); if the other had been lost through injury, there is now no trace of it and no scar.

Head about 5 in length without tail. Eye about one-sixth head. Nasal barbel longer than head. Anterior nostril above upper lip and pointing forward. Thirteen slender gill-rakers on lower half of first branchial arch. There is a membrane over their bases. No dendritic preanal organ. No axillary pore. Whole of first dorsal fin invested with skin. Dorsal spine ossified, not serrated, and its fin evidently degenerate.

Seven specimens, 108-230 mm. in total length. Austr. Mus. Regd. Nos. IA.7224 to 7227.

Upper Fly River (Stuart Campbell).

Lambertichthys, gen. nov.

Lambertia Perugia, Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova (2), xiv, 1895, p. 550. Haplotype, *L. atra* Perugia from Inawi, New Guinea.