

## REDISCOVERY OF *GOBIO AUGRAOIDES* JERDON FIRSTLY AFTER IT'S DESCRIPTION IN 1849

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**ABSTRACT :** *Gobio augraoides* was described by Jerdon (1849) as 'very distinct species'. But owing to lack of type specimens and unavailability of fresh specimens from type locality, identity of this species was in doubt. No researcher could procure this fish after its original discovery; the species name itself has been forgotten from the ichthyological literature. Based on collection of fresh specimens from a freshwater body in Karnataka, *Gobio augraoides* is redescribed here. The Jerdon's *Labeo* is distinguished from its relative species in having a mid lateral blue band running from opercle to caudal fin base, dorsal fin placed in advance of ventral fin, anal fin fairly long and reaching caudal fin base, all fins, except caudal fin, stained dark and tipped white.

**Key words :** Taxonomy, rediscovery, redescription, freshwater fish, cyprinidae.

### INTRODUCTION

Species of the carp genus *Labeo*, created by Cuvier (1816), (now included in the subtribe *Labeoina* (Yang *et al*, 2012) of the tribe Labeonini within the putative cyprinid subfamily Labeoninae of family Cyprinidae) are found in various freshwater habitats in the tropics and subtropics of Africa and Asia. The genus bears more than 100 species and are widely distributed in the Old World tropics. Species of the genus *Labeo* are elongate medium sized fishes with rounded abdomen; swollen snout, semilunar and inferior mouth; fringed lips with labial fold, non-osseous dorsal fin and straight and complete lateral line.

Hamilton (1822) described many *Labeo* species from Ganges river and its distributaries. Valenciennes (1842), Day (1889) and Jerdon (1849) discovered some *Labeo* species from south India. Jerdon (1849) described several new cyprinid species including *Labeo* from Cauvery watershed but the taxonomic status or systematic position of many of which has hither to remained uncertain. He described *Gobio augraoides* with a limited number of diagnostic features. Eventhough, his diagnostic characters were enough for identification, this species has been given up as a forgotten species. During a recent survey for collecting rare cyprinid fishes from Cauvery River system, these authors could collect specimens of *Gobio augraoides* from a freshwater body of Karnataka. It is

redescribed and compared with its congeners.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fishes were collected using gill nets and preserved in 10% formalin. Methods used are those of Jayaram (2002). Measurements were made point to point with dial calipers and data recorded to tenths of a millimeter. Counts and measurements were made on the left side of specimens. Head length and measurements of body parts are given as proportions of standard length (SL). Subunits of the head are presented as proportions of head length (HL); distance between two fins or between fin and vent is taken from the origin of the fin. The new specimens of *Labeo augraoides* are now deposited in the museum at Department of Zoology, BJM Govt. College, Chavara, Kerala (DOZ GCC).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Topotype materials examined :** DOZ, GCC 70, 2, 137 & 143 mm SL, a water stream at Mysore, Karnataka, India, coll. Plamoottil and Vineeth, 25/01/2020.

**Diagnosis :** This species can be diagnosed from all its congeners in having 41-42 lateral line scales; 11-12 predorsal scales; 11 branched dorsal fin rays, a mid lateral blue band running from opercle to base of caudal fin; dorsal fin placed in advance of ventral fin and anal fin longer and fairly reaching caudal fin base. All fins, except caudal fin, stained dark and tipped white.