OBSERVATIONS ON THE COLOURATION OF *MYSTACOLEUCUS OGILBII* (SYKES) DURING GROWTH

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(With Text-figures 1-7)

Received June 17, 1946

[Communicated by Dr. M. A. Moghe, Ph.D. (London), F.A.Sc.]

During the fish-survey of the rivers and reservoirs of the Dominions many young stages of *Mystacoleucus ogilbii* (Sykes) were collected. Most of the specimens were caught in the River Kistna near Gadwal in the month of May 1943, since then other specimens were available from the Rivers Manjra and Godavari, and some other reservoirs. The young ones ranged from 43 mm. to 97.5 mm. The colouration during growth was as follows:

1. The smallest specimen (Fig. 1) was 39 mm. long; the ground colour in the freshly-caught specimens was yellowish-white or in some specimens brownish. Six vertical black bands were visible; 1st above the opercle, 2nd a little behind it, 3rd descending from the fore-part of the dorsal fin, 4th from the posterior part of the base of the dorsal, 5th above the middle of the anal, and the 6th near the base of the caudal fin. All the bands, excepting the first two reached the ventral profile.

![Fish Image 1](image1)

![Fish Image 2](image2)

2. Specimens measuring 43 mm. (Fig. 2). Bands do not reach the ventral profile and the ground colour becomes a little lighter.
3. Specimens measuring 51 mm. (Fig. 3). Bands assume greyish-black colour and hardly distinct below the lateral line excepting the 2nd one. The last one assuming the form of a blotch.

4. Specimens 77.5 mm. long (Fig. 4). Bands become still lighter in colour and some of them split up in the middle, the lower portions assume the form of blotches. The colour of the bands becomes still lighter and the ground colour becomes silver-grey.

5. Specimens 86 mm. in length (Fig. 5). Most of the bands scatter and assume the form of irregular blotches and streaks. Caudal spot still distinct.

6. Specimens 97.5 mm. in length (Fig. 6). Streaks irregular and found mostly on the lateral line. This stage corresponds to the specimen