

## AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF THE INDIAN CARP, *LABEO BATA* (HAMILTON)

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A specimen of *Labeo bata* (Ham.) with abnormal skull bones is reported for the first time from the New Alluvial Zone of West Bengal.

During survey of the fish fauna of the New Alluvial Zone of West Bengal, the authors came across an abnormal specimen of *Labeo bata* which is described in the present note. The abnormal specimen was collected from a fish market at Kalyani, Nadia (W.B.) during March 2001. Except for the depressed snout region (Fig. 1), the specimen resembled the normal specimen in all respect. No sign of injury or any scar could be noticed in the specimen.



Several instances of abnormalities in fishes have been reported and the most common abnormalities, generally met are in colouration, monstrosity, hermaphroditism and vertebral variation. Many workers have made teratological reports on other fishes from India (Sarkar & Kaushik, 1958); Raghunathan & Jayaram, 1973; Banerjee *et al.*, 1979; Dasgupta & Nasar, 1982). To the best of our knowledge there is no report of abnormality in respect to skull in *L. bata*.

On detail osteological examination, it has been observed that skull bone showed certain degree of synostosis, coalescence and distortion (Table I). Some irregular ossification of the skull bones indicate that monstrosity must have occurred in the early phase of the life history of the fish.

It is well known that the stream lined spindle shaped body of a typical fish helps to drive itself forward. Obviously, disturbance in the normal shape due to depression of the snout region jeopardised its normal movement (Fig. 1).

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**Table I :** Morphometric parameters of the head region, the abnormal and a normal *L. bata*.

Head parameters	Percentage in total length	
	Normal	Abnormal
Preorbital length	6.43	6.25
Interorbital length	8.58	9.37
Head length	22.31	20.62
Post orbital length	11.15	11.45

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