

the joint author, who then independently carried out further investigations and concluded that it was a new species of *Serratia* which causes the "red heat". We propose the name *Serratia sambharianus* for this new organism.

This new species is much akin to *Serratia marcescens* Bizio. and *Serratia salinaria* Harrison & Kennedy but differs from both in various respects. *S. marcescens* cannot grow at 37° C., which seems to be its optimum temperature. *S. salinaria* grows in 16 per cent. to 30 per cent. salt but fails to grow beyond 30 per cent. salt, whereas this new species grows readily even in higher per cent. and relatively drier salt, which is really very remarkable.

The authors take this opportunity to thank Dr. H. B. Dunnicliff for his co-operation in enabling them to throw some searching light on this interesting problem.

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#### A NOTE ON REARING THE LARVÆ OF THE MILK-FISH (*CHANOS CHANOS*)\*

A study of the plankton present in the water of the Milk-Fish Farm was started from August 1941. On 11th August 1941, three larvæ found in the plankton, all of the same size (16 mm.), were successfully brought alive to the laboratory for rearing.

One of the larvæ was killed for immediate study. The following were the chief characteristics:—

- (1) Transparent body with black eyes.
- (2) Length, 16 mm.

(3) There were two rows of black pigments along the side of the body. On the caudal fin the pigments were scattered about; but there were no pigments on the other fins.

(4) The stomach and intestine were visible through the transparent body.

The other two larvæ were reared in a round glass-aquarium. As their body was transparent, the larvæ could be distinguished in water only with difficulty.

An aerator was used for the first ten days. The water in the aquarium was changed every day and fresh plankton was added every alternate day. After a few days the larvæ became so much used to the conditions of the laboratory that they seemed to recognise my coming by actively swimming towards me, especially in the morning at 8-30 A.M., when I supplied fresh plankton, on which they fed rather ravenously.

Within a week, the larvæ began to show signs of growth. The body began to lose its transparency. The dorsal side acquired a bluish tinge, which became more and more bluish as days passed by. The head became larger, and the body cylindrical. The ventral side of the body gradually became silvery. The larvæ became small fingerlings with adult characteristics in the course of a month.

One of the larvæ died on 18th September 1941 after living in the aquarium for over five weeks. Its length at the hour of death was 19 mm., the increase being 3 mm. The dorsal side of head and body was brilliant glossy blue in colour. The dorsal and caudal fins were blue; the pectoral, ventral and anal fins were white. The second larva died on 30th September 1941 after seven weeks. This larva also showed all the colour patterns noted above. Its length was 21 mm., the increase being 5 mm.

The larval characters noted above should enable a pisciculturist interested in rearing the Milk-Fish to distinguish its larvæ from other kinds of fish-larvæ.

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