

not a single constant morphological character by which *lefroyi* and *greeni* can be distinguished, and they should, therefore, be regarded as identical.

Though morphologically indistinguishable the two parasites, however, do not, as a rule, oviposit on the same hosts. Attempts to induce *greeni* to oviposit on *Earias* spp., under different temperature conditions, have invariably failed at New Delhi. The larvæ were not even paralysed. The two parasites also seem to have some other biological differences, for example, those relating to the conditions for oviposition. It is evident, therefore, that *M. lefroyi* and *M. greeni* are two biological races of the same species. Since *greeni* was described earlier than *lefroyi*, the correct name of the parasites should be *Microbracon greeni* (Ashmead) race *lefroyi* and *M. greeni* (Ashmead) race *greeni*.

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¹ Ashmead, Wm. H., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 1896, 18, 633.

² Brues, C. T., *Rept. Proc. 3rd Ent. Meeting*, Pusa, 1920, 3, 1026.

³ Dudgeon, G. C., and Gough, L. H., *Agric. Jour., Egypt*, 1913, 3, 108.

⁴ Ramakrishna Ayyar, T. V., *Mem. Dept. Agric. India, Ent. Ser.*, 1928, 10, 29.

Research Work on the Hilsa

THE review¹ of Dr. Hora's recent paper on Hilsa* by Mr. J. Travis Jenkins has, we fear, hardly done justice to the research on the same fish carried on in the province of Madras. To the reader not acquainted with the investigations, the review is likely to convey the impression that they are confined to the province of Bengal. The following extracts from the review, for instance, are open to challenge:—

(1) "Until the recent discoveries of Dr. Hora which are described in the paper under review, practically nothing definite was known of the spawning habits and grounds of the Hilsa, though there was naturally much guess-work."

(2) "In spite of investigations made by several scientists, no step forward was made until Dr. Hora discovered large numbers of very small Hilsa, etc."

(3) "Now that the first and most difficult step has been taken by Dr. Hora in elucidating the mystery of the spawning of the Hilsa, we await further discoveries in the near future, and in particular, the eggs and first larval stages."

Mr. H. C. Wilson succeeded in hatching Hilsa eggs as early as 1908 and 1909 and Dr. B. Sundara Raj succeeded in hatching out ten million fry at the Coleroon hatchery in 1916. The collection and hatching of Hilsa eggs continues as a routine at Madras.

Quite different is the impression one gets by a perusal of the paper by Dr. S. L. Hora; for this author has faithfully summarised the work relating to Hilsa done in this province. By omitting the share of work done by the Department of Fisheries, Madras, from the scope of his otherwise complete review, Mr. Jenkins has, we fear, run the risk of misleading the average reader unfamiliar with the work on this anadromous or estuarine fish.

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¹ *Vide* pp. 251 and 252 of *Current Science*, No. 5, Nov. 1938.

* "A Preliminary Note on the Spawning Grounds and Bionomics of the so-called Indian Shad, *Hilsa ilisha* (Hamilton) in the River Ganges," by Sunder Lal Hora, *Records of the Indian Museum*, 1938, 40, Pt. II, 147-58.