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**A NEW GENUS AND A NEW SPECIES OF A REMARKABLE
NEMACHEILID FISH FROM IRAN
(PISCES: OSTARIOPHYSI: NEMACHEILIDAE)**

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Abstract. A strange specimen of a nemacheilid fish was caught in a river (Ilam Province) in western Iran. The body is laterally compressed, head large, mouth with no preopercular dentiformis. Paired fins are long, dorsal with 10 branched rays and caudal well forked. Lateral line complete. Scales are very small, scattered in second half of body, with large enough focal area.

Résumé. Un étrange poisson nemacheilid a été pêché dans une rivière de l'Iran occidental (province d'Ilam). Le corps est comprimé latéralement; la tête grande, la bouche sans préopercule dentiformis. Les nageoires paires sont longues, la nageoire dorsale a 10 rayons mous et la nageoire caudale est bien fourchée; la ligne latérale complète. Les écailles sont très petites, dispersées dans la deuxième moitié du corps, avec une zone focale large.

Key words: *Ilamnemacheilus longipinis*, new genus, new species, western Iran.

A specimen of a strange nemacheilid fish was caught by the senior author in a stream in western part of Iran, close to the Iraqi border.

Kottelat (1990: 18-21) listed 32 nominal genera as valid (he considered *Vaillantella* as a nemacheilin). Bănărescu and Nalbant (1995) consider only 28 nominal genera as valid. The present new genus and new species enriched the actual fauna of nemacheilid species.

***Ilamnemacheilus* new genus**

Type species: Ilamnemacheilus longipinnis new sp. by original designation and monotypy.

Etymology: Ilam, the name of a western Iranian region and *Nemacheilus* a well known genus in the family Nemacheilidae.

The body is high, laterally compressed (Fig. 1 a); head large, eyes small, mouth small (Fig. 1 b). The entire anterior lip has no interruption in its middle; posterior lip with widened mental lobes; small rounded papillae cover only mental lobes, the rest of lips being unfurrowed; processus dentiformis absent.

The lateral line is complete and ends slightly before the posterior margin of caudal peduncle. Scales (Fig. 1 e) are very small, with a quite large eccentric focal area, and they are sparsely present in second half of body; stomach (Fig. 1 c) is siphonal and intestine straight without loops; gas-bladder with two encapsuled chambers united by a short encapsuled duct. Paired fins very long. Dorsal fin long with 10 branched rays. Caudal fin well forked.

Ilanemacheilus longipinnis new species

(Fig. 1 a-c)

Material. Holotype and single specimen known, NMC 79-966, Iran: Meymeh River, a formerly tributary of Tigris River, Tigris – Euphrates drainage, 17 km west of Dehloran city and about 21 km east of Iraqi border, 32°45'30" N, 47°05'30" E, January 28th, 1978, B.W. Coad coll.

Description. Standard length 36.0 mm.

Fin rays formula: D III 10, A II 5, V I 6-I 6, P I 9-I 9; Cn8+7n. Vertebrae: ca 29 (based on the radiographs).

The following are the body proportions expressed in percentage of the standard length: length of pectorals: 25.64%; length of pelvics: 24.44%; longest dorsal ray: 24.72%; longest anal ray: 22.22%; longest outer caudal ray: 25.64%; length of head: 30.55%; preorbital space: 11.38%; postorbital space: 14.16%; horizontal diameter of eye: 5.55%; greatest height of body: 19.44%; height of caudal peduncle: 13.88 %; predorsal space: 53.33%; preventral space: 55.27%; length of third (maxilo-mandibular) barbel: 8,33%.

Colour: uniform pale brownish, but in the middle of the second half of the body there are 3-4 nearly indistinct greyish blotches; all fins pale but the caudal fin is marked with faded greyish lines along the marginal rays.

It has apparently 28 (or 29) vertebrae, including the ural centrum. However, it is extremely strange that some centra have two neural and hemal arches (see fig. 3 b, enlarged radiograph marked with arrows). For a moment it is difficult to comment such a structure. Probably these centra do not represent a normal arrangement of hemal or neural arches and therefore other specimens are absolutely needed.

Remarks. This genus and species appear closely related with an undescribed specimen from Syria in the Orontes basin (in the collection of Zoological Museum in München), concerning the shape of body, length of pelvics and forked caudal fin. However, *Ilanemacheilus* differs very much from the Syrian specimen in the number of dorsal rays (10 vs 9), mouth structure, digestive system and the shape of gas-bladder (see fig. 2).

Alongside of *Turcinoemacheilus kosswigi* (see the map, fig. 4, open stars), *Ilanemacheilus longipinnis* (Fig. 4, solid star) represents one of the two endemic nemacheilids of the Tigris-Euphrates system. Another endemic genus, *Nun (galileus)* is present in Jordan valley (see fig. 4, open circle).

A more complete discussion concerning this genus will be presented by both authors (B. W. C. and T. T. N.) in a forthcoming contribution.

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UN NOU GEN ȘI O NOUĂ SPECIE A UNUI REMARCABIL PEȘTE NEMACHEILID
DIN IRAN (PISCES: OSTARIOPHYSI: NEMACHEILIDAE)

REZUMAT

Este descris un nou gen și o nouă specie de Nemacheilidae din râul Meymeh, vestul Iranului. Unicul exemplar are corpul înalt și comprimat lateral, caudala puternic bifurcată. Aceste caractere sunt neobișnuite în cadrul familiei Nemacheilidae.

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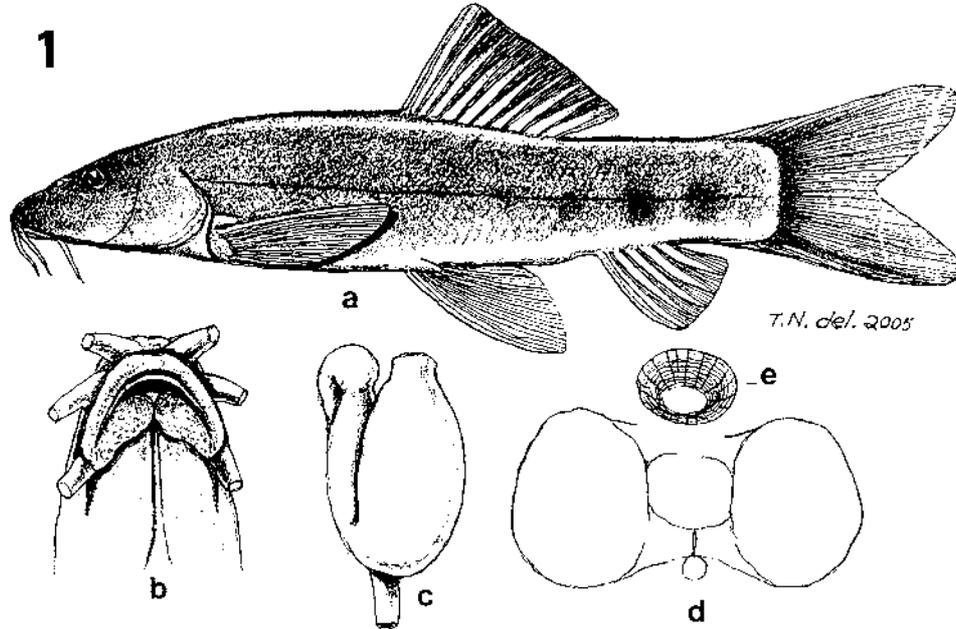


Fig. 1 - a - *Ilamemacheilus longipinnis* entire specimen; b - mouth region; c - digestive tract; c - gas-bladder capsules; e - scale.

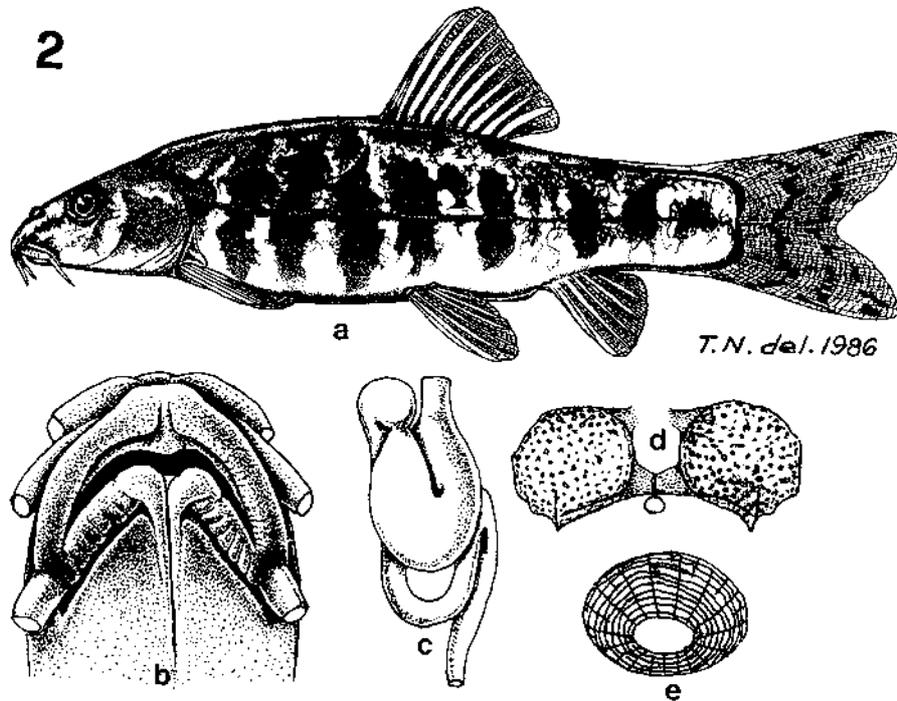


Fig 2 - a - undescribed genus and species from Syria, Orontes basin (for comparison) lateral view; b - mouth region; c - digestive tract; d - gas-bladder capsules; e - scale.



Fig 3 - a: X-ray of whole specimen of *Ilannemacheilus longipinnis*; b – enlarged X-ray of the same specimen. Note the double arches of neural and hemal elements.

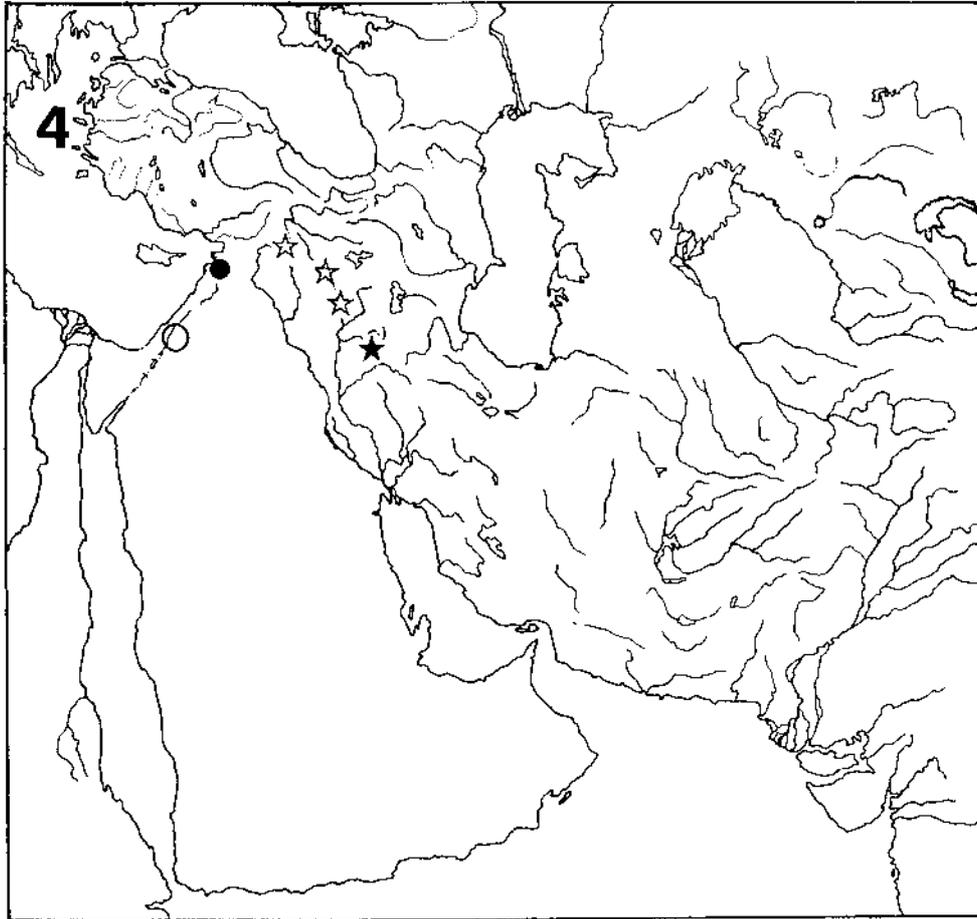


Fig 4 - distribution of *Ilammacheilus longipinnis* (solid star), *Turcinoemacheilus kosswigi* (open stars), *Nun galileus* (open circle), nemacheilid of unknown genus and species, Syria, Orontes River (solid circle).