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ON THE FRESH WATER CATFISH, *PARASILURUS ASOTUS*
(LINNAEUS) FROM HOKKAIDO

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The fresh water catfish, *Parasilurus asotus* (LINNAEUS), from Hokkaido was reported by S. Sato and K. Kobayashi (1954) on specimens collected from the ponds of Goryokaku-Park and from the Matsukura River of Hakodate City.¹⁾ On the other hand, D. S. Jordan and H. W. Fowler (1903), D. S. Jordan, S. Tanaka and J. O. Snyder (1913), T. Mori (1934, 1936) and S. Tanaka (1928, 1947) have vaguely stated "Japan" or similar words²⁾ as the distribution area. From their descriptions it is possible to presume that their expressions have the meaning of "Japan excepting Hokkaido". Moreover, D. Miyadi (1940), Y. Okada and M. Nakamura (1948), Y. Okada and K. Matsubara (1938) and S. Tanaka (1952) plainly considered Hokkaido as outside the area of distribution.

From the above, one would not only believe that the fresh water catfish does not inhabit Hokkaido with the exception of a very small area of the most south end but also one would be encouraged to believe that its distribution into the south end of Hokkaido may be artificial. The present writers find now that this species inhabits naturally a part of Hokkaido, an area north of Asahigawa City far from the

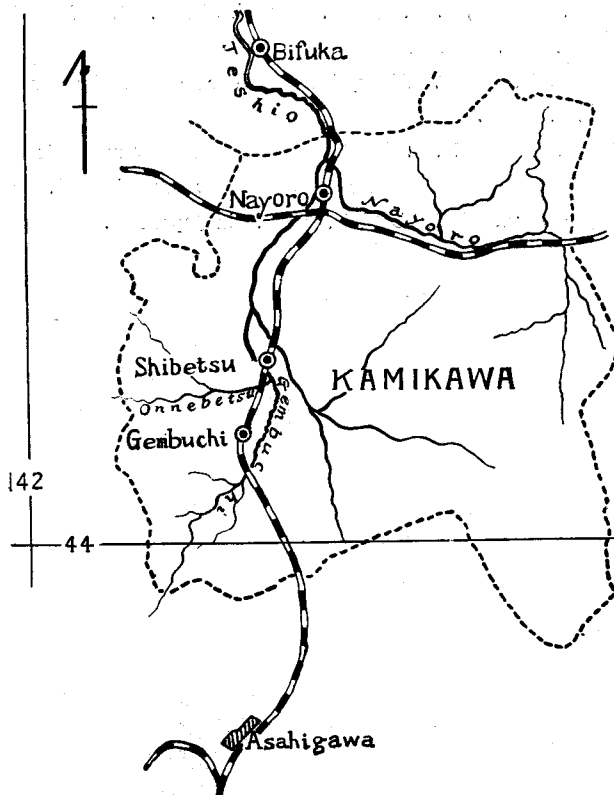


Fig. 1. Region where specimens were collected

- 1) They cited Shimamatsu in the vicinity of Sapporo as the locality.
- 2) "Japan proper" by T. Mori, "Inland of Japan" by S. Tanaka

south-most part, and it may possibly live universally in Hokkaido.

The specimens described in this paper were collected from the Gembuchi and Otonashi Rivers and several ponds in the watershed of the above two rivers in Kamikawa-Gun, Teshio Province, at about north latitude 44° (Fig. 1). They inhabit together with *Carassius carassius* L. in the turbid water in the peat-bog. It is assumed that they are not scarce for the angling for them is continuously carried on by local persons.

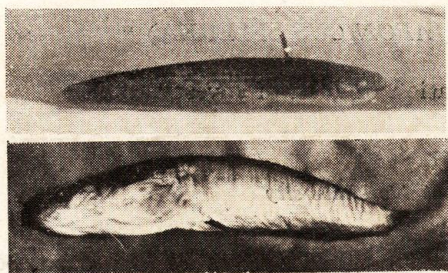


Fig. 2. Specimens collected by K. Hasekura (top) and K. Sato from the Otonashi River

The measurements of the specimens are as follows:

Locality	Date collected	Collector	Body length (cm)
Otonashi River	May 11, '54	Kakuo Hasekura	12.70
"	June 2, '54	Kanji Sato	18.50
Old waterway of the Gembuchi River	June 3, '54	Kimiye Miyake	35.00
"	June 13, '54	Kaname Yokoi	12.00

One specimen collected by the junior writer by angling from an old waterway of the Gembuchi River on the 13th of June is different from the others in the number of barbels and the lateral line. The barbels are six : two very long maxillaries and four short mentals, and the lateral line is white and extraordinarily clear. It is probable that this fish is a young one, but the writers are rearing specimen for the purpose of observation on the fate of barbels.

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