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On the Caudal Fin of a Serranid Fish, *Holanthias chrysostictus* (GÜNTHER)

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The author obtained two adult specimens of *Holanthias chrysostictus* (GÜNTHER), Aug. 4, 1960, through the kindness of Mr. Masakazu SHIMODA, a young fish-dealer at Misaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, who told him that these had been caught several days before by a fisherman near Hachijo Island. One of them is almost perfect and about 150 mm in standard length, and the other, which has the snout distorted, is about 135 mm.

It has generally been considered that in this fish the anterior soft dorsal rays, the anterior soft anal rays, the outer ventral rays, and the upper and lower caudal rays

Fig. 1. *Holanthias chrysostictus* (GÜNTHER). *Above*, an almost perfect specimen. *Below*, another specimen with the snout distorted. In both the caudal fin has no filamentaous rays.

are produced into filaments, as described or illustrated by GÜNTHER (1871, p. 655, pl. 66) and BOULENGER (1895, p. 319). According to a photograph of a fine adult specimen taken by KAMOHARA (1934, p. 458, fig. 1), however, the caudal fin is different and peculiar in form. KATAYAMA (1960, p. 138, pl. 73), who had examined KAMOHARA's specimen only according to his kind reply to the author's inquiry, described "caudal emarginate" and gave a sketch of the specimen showing the caudal fin simply emarginate and deprived of filamentous rays.

In the specimens observed, the caudal fin has much the same form as that shown by KAMOHARA; *i. e.*, its rays, maintaining a parallel relation with each other, bend posteriorly so as to from a pair of broad falciform lobes with the tips bending toward each other, and the upper lobe slightly longer than the lower; the middle rays of each lobe are the longest, and there are no filamentous rays.

This form of the caudal fin is probably the true one, since the specimens were very fresh and in a natural state and their caudal lobes were perfect and unbroken when the author received them. In addition, in another example about 135 mm in standard length, kept in the Museum of the Zoological Institute, University of Tokyo (No. 32875, collected at Fujieda, Shizuoka Prefecture, about 1933, by Mr. Denkichi SHIMIZU), the caudal fin retains the form described above.

By the way, KAMOHARA showed the ventral fin with very long filamentous rays but KATAYAMA illustrated the fin without filamentous rays. The author has not made clear whether the filamentous rays had been broken off or not before KATAYAMA examined KAMOHARA's specimen.

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