

ON A NEW SPECIES OF *CHILOMYCTERUS* FROM NEW GUINEA.

By

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Dr. HARDENBERG kindly sent me for identification a species of *Chilomycterus*, collected by him in December 1937 at Merauke, South New Guinea. The specimen turned out to belong to an undescribed species, which I have the pleasure to call after its discoverer:

***Chilomycterus hardenbergi* n. sp.**

D.1.10. A.1.10. P.1.17.1. C.9.

All measurements given below are in millimeters. Length without caudal 128; height 43; head 51, height of head 38, breadth of head at gillopening 46. Eye without free orbital margin, 12, situated in the middle of the length of the head and 6 above the horizontal through corner of mouth. Interorbital 34. Spines short but strong, compressed, each with three very strong, long, flat ridged roots. A small spine in front and somewhat above each nostrill, which is best described as a round, open tube with a round perforation anteriorly at its base. Two supraorbital spines on each side; the inner roots of the anterior pair almost touch each other in the median line. Snout, forehead, and interorbital space smooth, without median spines. Only six spines in a longitudinal median series between head and origin of dorsal. Seven spines in the longitudinal row to the right and the left of the median one, the last of these spines connected with each other through their inner roots, immediately behind the dorsal. Two spines to the right and the left of the end of the anal are connected through their inner roots behind the anal in the same way as those at the end of the dorsal, the lower roots of which are connected with the upper roots of the former, forming a bony ring round the anterior part of the caudal peduncle, which is otherwise smooth. Back and belly completely covered by spines, those of the back with longer and broader roots than the others. The body is surrounded by 17 spines behind the head and with 9 spines in front of the dorsal and the anal. Dorsal, anal, and caudal rounded, narrow at their bases and expanding distally. Length of base of dorsal and anal 10, of caudal 7. Longest dorsal ray 27, longest anal ray 25, longest caudal ray 44. Length of caudal peduncle 16, its height anteriorly 20. Pectorals in the form of a trapezium; the length of their base 14, of the hindborder 40, of the outer rays 25. Colour of the preserved specimen crimson,

lighter below. The spines of the back dark towards their end. Fins reddish, dorsal, anal, and caudal dusky at tip. Length of the specimen described 172.

This species is allied to *Ch. affinis* GÜNT. As in this species forehead and the interorbital space are without spines, but it differs in having less rays in the fins and in having only six spines in a longitudinal series along the median line of the back. Besides the coloration is different.
