

BRIEF NOTE

NEW LOCALITY RECORDS OF THE LONGNOSE DACE,
RHINICHTHYS CATARACTAE (CYPRINIDAE), IN THE UPPER OHIO
RIVER VALLEY¹

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The longnose dace, *Rhinichthys cataractae* (Valenciennes), is widely distributed from coast to coast in North America. It is primarily a northern and montane species commonly found in Canada and the northern United States. In the Appalachian Mountains its range extends south to Georgia and in the Rocky Mountains south to Mexico. It is most commonly found over gravel, boulder, or bedrock substrates in swiftly flowing streams and in lakes, including nearshore waters of all the Great Lakes (Lee et al. 1980, Scott and Crossman 1973).

In the Ohio River drainage the longnose dace is largely restricted to the Appalachian headwaters of the Tennessee, Kanawha, Allegheny, and Monongahela river systems. Longnose dace have also been collected from headwater streams in the Little Kanawha River and Middle Island Creek systems in northwestern West Virginia (Menendez and Robinson 1964), in the former as recently as 1974 (D. A. Cincotta, pers. comm.). There are also at least two records from headwater streams of the Beaver River system in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio (Lee et al. 1980, Traut-

man 1981). The eastern Ohio record consists of a single specimen collected in 1853 by S. F. Baird in Yellow Creek, a tributary of the Mahoning River in Mahoning County. No other definite records of longnose dace exist for the Ohio River drainage in eastern Ohio, although Trautman (1981) believes the species was more widely distributed in southeastern Ohio before 1860 than the single record from Yellow Creek indicates.

Since 1978 longnose dace have been collected from several Ohio River tributaries in eastern Ohio and adjacent West Virginia (table 1). These recent records, along with the earlier records from the Little Kanawha River and Middle Island Creek drainages, indicate a greater downstream distribution of this species in the upper Ohio River Valley than previously recorded.

The distribution of longnose dace in the upper Ohio River Valley may be limited in part by siltation and acid mine drainage pollution, which have affected many of the streams in this area. The alteration of stream habitats by construction projects and impoundments also poses a hazard to longnose dace populations in this part of its range. Other factors, such as stream size, gradient, and substrate, also appear to play a role in the distribution of this species in the area. Those streams supporting longnose dace have average gradients ranging from 7.8-15.2 m/km (Krolczyk 1960), permanent flow, and gravel, boulder, and

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TABLE 1

*Recent records of the longnose dace from Upper Ohio River Tributaries in Ohio and West Virginia.**

Tributary	State	County	Township	Section	Date	Number Collected	Collected by**
Croxton Run	OH	Jefferson	Knox	26	10 June 1983	1	ODNR
Island Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	4, 11	9 June 1983	18	ODNR
Island Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	28	10 June 1983	1	ODNR
Wills Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	1, 7, 13, 14	9 May 1978	15	ODOT***
Wills Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	1, 7	10 June 1983	71	ODNR
Wills Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	1, 7	27 Sept. 1983	134	OEPA
N. Fk. Wills Cr.	OH	Jefferson	Island Cr.	8	10 June 1983	1	ODNR
McIntyre Creek	OH	Jefferson	Cross Cr.	14, 8	16 Sept. 1983	3	OEPA
Kings Cr.	WV	Hancock	Butler	-	26 Aug. 1983	5	Barnes & Rice

*Not including Kanawha, Allegheny and Monongahela river systems

**ODNR = Ohio Department of Natural Resources; ODOT = Ohio Department of Transportation; OEPA = Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

***Steck 1978

bedrock substrates composed primarily of sandstone and shale. Additional surveys in the upper Ohio River Valley may document additional populations of the longnose dace and help elucidate those factors limiting its distribution in this part of its range.

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