

NOTE ON PERCA FLAVESCENS.*

By Dr. FRANZ STEINDACHNER.

Dr. Franz Steindachner, in the Sitzungsberichte of the Vienna Academy for July, 1878, makes some interesting statements regarding the American Yellow Perch, of which a translation is given below:—

"*Perca flavescens* of Mitchell, Cuvier, and others, can be regarded only as a variety of *Perca fluviatilis*, and the opinion of the ichthyologists prior to Cuvier was the correct one.

The pronounced striation of the operculum, which is a characteristic of *P. flavescens*, is not always present in American specimens, and Holbrook has already remarked in his description of *Perca flavescens* (Ichthyology of South Carolina, p. 3), "with radiating striæ more or less distinct."

During my stay at Lake Winnipiseogee, New Hampshire, I frequently saw specimens with very indistinctly striated, or with perfectly smooth opercles. A much stronger argument for the identity of *Perca flavescens* with *Perca fluviatilis* lies in the fact that in the vicinity of Vienna occasional individuals with more or less strongly furrowed opercles are taken, and also in the Neusiedler Sea; in the Sea of Baikal and its tributaries I obtained several specimens with very strongly striated opercles. During my travels in England I was able to find only the typical European form of *Perca fluviatilis* with the smooth opercle.

In my opinion, only two species of *Perca* can be distinguished, namely, *Perca fluviatilis*, Linn., with two not very sharply defined varieties, viz, var. *europa* and var. *flavescens* or *americana*, and the high northern form *Perca Schrenkii*, Kessl.

In the number of longitudinal and vertical rows of scales, *Perca fluviatilis* cannot be distinguished from *P. flavescens*, both varieties having 7 to 10 (generally 7-9) scales between the base of the first dorsal spine and the lateral line, in a vertical row.

In Western North America there are known no members of *Perca* or any nearly allied genus, while in South America the rivers of Southern and Middle Chili and of Patagonia are inhabited by several (apparently only two) species of the *Perca*-like genera *Percichthys* and *Percilia*."

* Prepared by G. Brown Goode.